

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 July 2001 (12.07.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/50461 A1

(51) International Patent Classification?: **G11B 3/70**,
5/09, 7/00

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/41273

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(22) International Filing Date: 17 October 2000 (17.10.2000)

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ,
BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK,
DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL,
IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU,
LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT,
RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA,
UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
09/476,395 30 December 1999 (30.12.1999) US

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(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian
patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European
patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE,
IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG,
CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

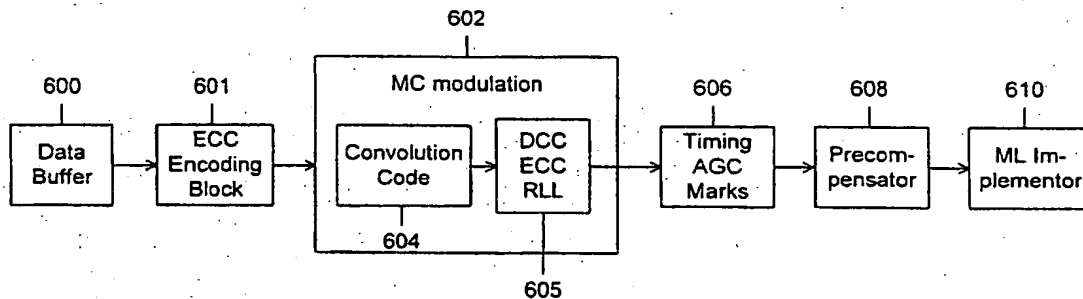
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Published:

— With international search report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND FORMAT FOR READING AND WRITING IN A MULTILEVEL OPTICAL DATA SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A system and method for reading and writing in a multilevel optical data system is disclosed. The system provides control signals for timing acquisition, level calibrations, DC control, AGC, equalizer training and data synchronization. The user data is ECC protected by an ECC Encoding Block (601) and optionally convolutionally encoded by a convolution coding block (604) before being combined with the control signals in an information block by a mark block (605) and a timing AGC block (606). The multilevel information block can be written to an optical disc as a series of multilevel marks. The optical disc may also contain an Address in Pregroove signal (AIP) to facilitate synchronization during writing of an information block. The AIP signal has an integer number of address frames per information block.

WO 01/50461 A1

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METHOD AND FORMAT FOR READING AND WRITING IN A MULTILEVEL OPTICAL DATA SYSTEM

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 09/253,808, Filed February 18, 1999.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to reading multilevel signals from an optical disc and
15 writing multilevel signals to an optical disc. Methods and apparatuses are described for processing
signals that are eventually written to and read from an optical disc. These signals produce marks on the
optical disc that may vary in both reflectivity and length. The system disclosed provides a method of
encoding and decoding the data, correcting for errors, synchronizing the data, controlling the DC
content, establishing and recovering a clock signal, establishing and recovering the envelope of the
20 signal, and compensating for signal distortion.

2. Relationship to the Art

In order to increase the capacity and speed of optical data storage systems, multilevel optical
recording systems have been developed. It should be noted that in this specification, the term
multilevel is used to indicate greater than 2 levels. In a traditional optical recording system, reflectivity
25 of the recording media is modulated between two states. The density of data recorded on an optical
recording medium may be increased by modulating the reflectivity of the optical recording medium
into more than two states.

One type of optical recording medium that appears to be particularly suitable for multilevel
signal modulation is phase change optical material. When a phase change material is heated by a
30 writing laser, the reflectivity of the phase change material may be changed. The change in reflectivity
may be controlled by adjusting the amount of heating of the material and the rate at which the material
cools. This process is described further in "Laser-induced crystallization phenomena in GeTe-based
alloys. I. Characterization on nucleation and growth" (J. Appl. Phys. 78 (8), 15 OCT 1995. p. 4906)

5 by J. H. Coombs, et. al. (hereinafter "Coombs").

After a phase change optical disc has been written, the intensity of a beam of light reflected from the disc is measured so that the multilevel data written to the disc may be recovered. United States Patent No. 5,144,615 entitled APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR RECORDING AND REPRODUCING MULTILEVEL INFORMATION issued to Kobayashi (hereinafter "Kobayashi")
10 discloses a system for recovering multilevel data from such an optical disc. Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating the system disclosed in Kobayashi for recovering such data. Analog data read from a detector is input from a mark length detecting circuit 101 and a reflectivity detecting circuit 102. The outputs of these circuits are sent to an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter 103. The A/D converter 103 includes an n-value circuit which determines the value that the signal corresponds to by comparing the
15 signal to predetermined reference voltages. Subsequently, the n-value signal is converted into a binary signal by binary circuit 405.

While this system discloses the concept of reading a multilevel signal and converting it into a digital signal in a basic sense, no method is disclosed of handling various imperfections in optically read multilevel signals that in fact tend to occur. For example, it is not clear how a clock is recovered
20 for the purpose of precisely detecting mark lengths and no method is disclosed for handling problems that tend to occur in real systems such as amplitude modulation and DC offset of the optically detected signal and noise.

In a conventional two level optical data storage system, information is stored in the lengths of the marks and the spaces between them. So long as the edge of a mark can be detected with enough
25 precision to distinguish between marks that differ in length by a minimum allowed amount, the system can operate reliably. This edge transition between one reflectivity state and another can be detected by setting a threshold value and determining the time when the signal crosses the threshold. Slow amplitude variations that might interfere with this edge detection are removed by AC coupling the photodetector signal before the threshold detection circuit. Mark and space lengths are measured by
30 counting how many clock periods are between the edge transitions. The reader clock periods are synchronized to the mark/space edges, thus ensuring that there are an integral number of clock periods in each mark/space.

In contrast, in a multilevel recording system, the amplitude of the signal carries information. The reader interprets the data signal to determine the amplitude of the signal at certain times.

5 Therefore, the reader clock must be synchronized to the data stream to ensure that the reader is interpreting the signal at the proper time. Because of the blurring effect of the optics in a reader, the transitions between the different levels do not create sharp edges. It is therefore difficult to synchronize the reader clock to the data stream. A method of precisely aligning a read data stream is needed. Further, a multilevel system is more sensitive to fluctuations in the overall envelope of the data signal. AC coupling alone is not adequate to enable a sufficiently precise determination of the different amplitude signals. Another problem encountered in a multilevel optical disc system is DC compensation.

In order for a multilevel optical read system to reliably record and recover data, a method of handling these sources of error in reading an optical signal is needed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, a system for writing and reading multilevel marks on an optical disc is disclosed. The system includes an error correction encoding and decoding system, modulation and demodulation system, DC control system, amplitude correction circuit, a clock recovery circuit, a write strategy system, a system to focus and track the laser spot on the surface of the disc, a system to rotate the disc, and an interface to a computer system. It should be appreciated that the present invention can be implemented in numerous ways, including as a process, an apparatus, a system, a device, a method, or a computer readable medium that includes certain types of marks that enable reliable data storage and recovery. Several inventive embodiments of the present invention are described below.

25 In one embodiment, an information block in a multilevel optical data system is disclosed. The information block includes a preamble having a timing acquisition area, a preamble level calibration area, and an equalizer training area. The information block also has a data block and a postamble.

In one embodiment, an information block in a multilevel optical data system is disclosed. The information block has a preamble that includes a timing acquisition area, a preamble level calibration area and a preamble equalizer training area. The information block also includes a first data block, a midamble including a midamble level calibration area and a midamble equalizer training area. The information block further includes a second data block and a postamble.

In one embodiment, a multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc is disclosed. The

5 multilevel pattern includes a preamble having a timing acquisition area, a preamble level calibration area and an equalizer training area. The multilevel pattern also has a data block and a postamble.

In one embodiment, a multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc is disclosed. The multilevel pattern has a preamble including a timing acquisition area, a preamble level calibration area and a preamble equalizer training area. The multilevel pattern also has a first data block and a
10 midamble including a midamble level calibration area and a midamble equalizer training area. The multilevel pattern further includes a second data block and a postamble.

In one embodiment, a method is disclosed for writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system. The method has the steps of defining a preamble including the steps of providing a timing acquisition area, inserting a preamble level calibration area and adding an equalizer training
15 area. The method also includes adding a data block and appending a postamble.

In one embodiment, a method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system is disclosed. The method includes the steps of defining a preamble having the steps of providing a timing acquisition area, inserting a preamble level calibration area and adding an equalizer training area. The method also includes adding a first data block, and defining a midamble having the
20 steps of inserting a midamble level calibration area and adding a midamble equalizer training area. The method further includes adding a second data block and appending a postamble.

In one embodiment, a format for an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system is adapted to storing or retrieving data arranged in physical information blocks having physical information block addresses. The format has a lead-in area, data area and lead-out area. The format
25 includes a plurality of AIP frames. An integer number of the AIP frames correspond to each of the physical information blocks and are arranged as AIP blocks. Each of the AIP frames contains an AIP address where the AIP address relates to said physical information block address by the equation $\text{INT}(\text{AIP address}/\text{integer number}) = \text{physical information block address}$. The format also includes a special information area contained in the AIP frames in the lead-in area.

30 These and other features and advantages of the present invention will be presented in more detail in the following specification of the invention and the accompanying figures which illustrate by way of example the principles of the invention.

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BRIEF DISCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be readily understood by the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate like structural elements, and in which:

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Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating the system disclosed in Kobayashi for recovering such data.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of a system for reading a multilevel signal from an optical disc.

Figure 3A is a block diagram illustrating the components of a signal processing system.

Figure 3B is a block diagram illustrating an alternative desnaking architecture.

Figure 4 illustrates how the preliminary desnaker processes an amplitude modulated signal.

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Figure 5A is a block diagram showing a data block format used in one embodiment.

Figure 5B illustrates a preamble sequence.

Figure 5C illustrates an ECC block.

Figure 5D illustrates a postamble sequence.

Figure 6 is a block diagram illustrating a system for writing multilevel marks to a disc.

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Figure 7 is a block diagram of the three main areas of a 120mm optical disc.

Figure 8 is a diagram of an information block.

Figure 9 is a diagram of the information stored in the block address.

Figure 10 is a diagram showing the block address mark arrangement.

Figure 11 shows the mark arrangement for the Sector Closeout and Timing Resynchs.

25

Figure 12 illustrates an ECC protected data block.

Figure 13 is a diagram for a convolutional encoder.

Figure 14 shows the three main areas of the Address In Pregroove (AIP) format.

Figure 15 depicts the contents of an AIP frame.

Figure 16 illustrates a type 0 AIP frame.

30

Figure 17 illustrates a type 1 AIP frame.

Figure 18 illustrates a type 2 AIP frame.

Figure 19 shows the synchronization of a start of an information block write with the AIP.

Figure 20 shows the relationship of the end of the information block write with the AIP.

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DETAILED DISCRIPTION

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiment of the invention. An example of the preferred embodiment is illustrated in the accompanying drawings. While the invention will be described in conjunction with that preferred embodiment, it will be understood that it is not intended to limit the invention to one preferred embodiment. On the contrary, it is intended to cover alternatives, modifications, and equivalents as may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims. In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. The present invention may be practiced without some or all of these specific details. In other instances, well known process operations have not been described in detail in order not to unnecessarily obscure the present invention.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of a system for reading a multilevel signal from an optical disc. A disc 200 is rotated by a motor 202. An optical head 204 includes a laser that illuminates a storage location on the disc and a multi-element photodetector that detects the reflected light from the location. The optical disc contains a multilevel modulated signal. The multilevel signal may be written to the optical disc in different embodiments using various techniques for changing the reflectivity of the disc including varying pit depth, varying the exposure of a dye, or changing the phase of an optical phase change material. In the example illustrated below, an optical phase change material is used. The photodetector converts the light into an electrical signal which is converted from a current to a voltage and amplified by a pre-amplifier 210. The output of the pre-amplifier 210 is fed to a servo error-signal calculator 212 that calculates combinations of the signal for the focus, tracking, and data interpretation systems. The data signal contains the multilevel information and in prior art systems such as the one described above, the amplified data is input into an A/D converter for the purpose of digitizing that information. An improved system is disclosed herein that includes various signal processing stages between the amplifier and the A/D converter as well as after the A/D converter.

The signal from servo error-signal calculator 212 is input to a signal processing system 214 before it is input into an analog to digital (A/D) converter 218. The signal processing system 214 is further described in Figure 3. In addition to the processed data signal, a clock signal is generated by

5 signal processing system 214 and the clock signal is also provided to A/D converter 218. The digitized
output signal 220 from the A/D converter is input into an adaptive fractionally spaced equalizer (FSE)
230. This adaptive FSE shapes the frequency response of the data signal so that the data channel
collectively gives a specific amount of intersymbol interference. In addition, the adaptive nature of the
FSE allows the system to accommodate interchange of media and players and inhomogeneities in the
10 media. The output of the adaptive FSE is input into a Viterbi decoder 234 that includes a mark handler.
In another embodiment, the mark handler could be separate from the Viterbi or other decoder used.

The mark handler is used to separate special timing and gain control fields, DC control fields,
and other fields that do not carry data from storage locations on the disc that actually represent data.
Timing and gain control fields are described below. DC control fields are periodically written to the
15 disc to adjust the average signal level written to the disc so that low frequency content of the signal is
suppressed. These DC control fields do not carry data information and are used simply to avoid having
a DC bias on the read signal.

The Viterbi decoder recovers the sequence of data encoded on the disc. The output of the
Viterbi decoder is input to an error correction code decoder 236 and the output data from the error
20 correction code decoder is made available to the system reading data from the optical disc.

Figure 3A is a block diagram illustrating a desnaker that may be included in the components
of signal processing system 214. An analog signal is fed into a preliminary desnaker 302 and also to a
clocked desnaker 308. The purpose of the desnaker is to remove the effect of amplitude modulation on
the signal. The desnaker removes modulation in the envelope of the signal caused by variations in the
25 characteristics of the optical disc or mechanical variations. For example, disc warp may cause
amplitude modulation of the read signal separate from the recorded data. Also, the amount of phase
change optical material deposited may vary, or there may be variations in the index of refraction or the
thickness of the polycarbonate material covering the surface of the disc. These variations in the
envelope of the data signal cause data read errors as well as timing errors.

30 Figure 4 illustrates how the preliminary desnaker processes an amplitude modulated signal.
The desired signal 402 does not have variation in its envelope. A raw signal 404 typically has some
variation in its envelope. This varying envelope resembles the shape of a snake, hence the term
"desnaking". In one embodiment, the envelope variation is removed by using top and bottom envelope
detector circuits. The output of a top envelope detector circuit applied to amplitude modulated signal

- 5 404 is shown as signal 406. Signal 406 follows the peaks of the raw signal. Similarly, the output of a bottom envelope detector circuit follows the minimums of the raw signal.

 The top and bottom envelope detection circuit outputs are used to normalize the amplitude. The amplitude modulation is removed by subtracting off the bottom signal from the data signal and then dividing by top minus bottom. In other words, the offset is subtracted off of the data signal, and
10 then the amplitude is normalized. The design of peak detectors is described in The Art of Electronics by Horowitz and Hill which is herein incorporated by reference.

 The output of preliminary desnaker 302 is input into a timing recovery system 306 for the acquisition of timing fields. Timing recovery circuit 306 acquires synchronization to timing fields that are included in the data signal and generates a sample clock. In one embodiment, a timing field
15 includes a series of storage locations, or marks, written with specific values. Specifically, a timing field can include three storage locations written at the highest mark signal level followed by three storage locations written at the lowest mark signal level. In other embodiments, timing recovery can also be achieved by synchronizing to the data marks without specific timing fields being embedded in the data signal.

20 A timing field may also be three storage locations written at the lowest level followed by three storage locations written at the highest level. The difference between the high to low transition timing fields and the low to high transition timing fields is used to distinguish the fields. In addition, in one embodiment, every fourth timing field is five storage positions written at the highest level followed by five storage positions written at the lowest level or five storage positions written at the lowest followed
25 by five storage positions written at the highest level. The extra long timing field that is ten storage positions long is also used as an amplitude automatic gain control field. The automatic gain control fields are used to more accurately desnake or remove the amplitude modulation of the envelope of the data signal.

 Once the clock recovery circuit has locked to the timing fields, the clocked desnaker is used to
30 more accurately desnake the signal. The clocked desnaker 308 receives an input from the timing recovery circuit and also receives the raw data signal from the optical detector. The clock desnaker 308 performs a more accurate removal of the amplitude modulation on the signal because the clocked desnaker uses the clock signal recovered by the clock recovery circuit to determine a point near the center of either a high region or low region of the automatic gain control field. Such a point gives a

5 reliable measure of the full amplitude response of the media at that location, since intersymbol interference from neighboring marks of different levels is reduced or eliminated. Amplitude modulation of the signal is removed again by subtracting off the offset of the signal and by multiplying the signal by a value that is inversely proportional to the amplitude detected. Other methods of correcting for the amplitude modulation may be used that use the signal read from the automatic gain control field.

10 Thus, the amplitude modulation is initially removed using a preliminary desnaker and the output of the preliminary desnaker is used to acquire a clock signal. Once the clock signal is acquired, the clock signal is used to locate portions of the raw data signal that include automatic gain control (AGC) fields. The signal read at the automatic gain control field locations is used to more precisely compensate for amplitude modulation that occurs on the disc. The more precise compensation is performed by the clocked desnaker, and the output of the clocked desnaker is then used by the system.

15 The clocked desnaker uses the timing information obtained by the clock recovery circuit to accurately desnake the signal based on the signal read at the positions of the automatic gain control fields. This arrangement of a preliminary desnaker that facilitates the clock recovery and a second desnaker using the signal obtained from automatic gain control fields yields particularly good results. In other embodiments, different desnaking systems are used.

20 In one embodiment, a first preliminary desnaker is used that is similar to the preliminary desnaker described above. However, instead of a second clocked desnaker that operates on the read analog signal, the read analog signal is digitized and a digital desnaker is used to precisely desnake the data. In such an embodiment, the number of bits of resolution of the digitized read signal exceeds the number of bits of data that are encoded in the signal. In other embodiments, the raw analog signal is digitized without analog desnaking and all desnaking occurs in the digital domain.

25 In another embodiment, the preliminary desnaker is connected in series with the clocked desnaker. The clocked desnaker then operates on data that has been processed by the preliminary desnaker. The clocked desnaker may be either digital or analog.

30 Referring back to Figure 3A, the signal output from the clocked desnaker is input into an anti-aliasing filter 310 and the output of the anti-aliasing filter 310 is input to an analog to digital (A/D) converter 312. A clock signal from the timing recovery system is also input to the analog to digital converter. The clock signal is used by the A/D converter to determine when to digitize the data signal.

5 This digitized signal is then fed to FSE 230 shown in Figure 2. It has been discovered that the analog desnaking prior to digitization may significantly improve system performance in some cases. In an alternate embodiment, the data signal is digitized by the A/D converter with only the preliminary desnaker or with no desnaking. This signal is then desnaked in the digital domain using a similar algorithm based on the measurement of the automatic gain control field signal levels.

10 Figure 3B is a block diagram illustrating an alternative desnaking architecture. A read signal 350 is input to a preliminary desnaker 351. Timing information is derived from the output of the preliminary desnaker by a timing recovery system 352 and the timing information is used to generate a clock for an analog to digital converter 354, which digitizes the read signal. The output of analog to digital converter 354 is input to a digital desnaker 356 that processes the signal to perform desnaking in
15 the digital domain. Desnaking is performed digitally by analyzing recovered signal peak values and making adjustments to the signal to correct for detected signal amplitude variation. As in the clocked analog desnaker, automatic gain control marks may be used. The output of analog to digital converter 354 is input to FSE 230. In one embodiment, the analog to digital converter is a 12 bit analog to digital converter and the FSE derives 8 levels of data.

20 In one embodiment, FSE is a finite impulse response (FIR) filter with two taps for each mark. The equalizer is designed to shape the response of the channel to a specific equalization target. In one embodiment, the equalization target has a $1 + D$ target transfer function. That is, the target output signal after passing through the optical data channel and equalization is equal to the input signal plus the input signal delayed by a time interval. The fractionally spaced equalizer has two advantages over
25 a once per mark spaced equalizer. First, the noise characteristics are better and second, the FSE is able to correct for timing offsets. In addition, by training on a specific sequence at the beginning of a data block, the FSE filter can adapt to differences in individual recorders and players that read and write marks, environmental changes, and also to individual disc/media variations. Also, the FSE filter can adapt to changes that occur over time as an individual player experiences wear. In another
30 embodiment, the FSE, possibly together with the precompensation, undoes the intersymbol interference in the data signal. This is referred to as a zero forcing equalizer. A FSE is described further in Proakis, "Digital Communications," 3rd edition, which is herein incorporated by reference, at pp. 617-620, and also in Lee & Messerschmitt, "Digital Communication," 2nd ed., which is herein incorporated by reference at pp.482,484,544.

5 Referring back to Figure 2, the signal output from the FSE is interpreted by a Viterbi detector
234. The Viterbi detector interprets the signal levels and determines the most likely sequence of data
based on a metric. It calculates this metric for all combinations of paths and, after some time, chooses
the path that was most likely as determined by the path-metric calculation.

The Viterbi detector includes a mark handler that removes the effect of non data marks on the
10 equalized signal output from the FSE. In one embodiment, the Viterbi accomplishes this by
periodically ignoring marks in the locations where nondata marks are known to exist.

The output signal from the Viterbi is sent to an error correction code (ECC) decoder 236. The
ECC decoder decodes the data and checks for errors in the data. One such error correction code used in
one embodiment is described in United States Patent Application No. 09/083,699 entitled, Method And
15 Apparatus For Modulation Encoding Data For Storage On A Multi-Level Optical Recording Medium
by Welch, et. al which is herein incorporated by reference.

A system for reading multilevel marks including automatic gain control fields and decoding
data from those marks has been described. Next, the marks themselves and a system for writing such
marks is described. A typical mark pattern generated by such a writing system and read by the read
20 system described above is shown.

In one embodiment, the system disclosed is used to read and write data marks to a disc where
each of the data marks are the same length. Constraints are not imposed that require a minimum
number of identical data marks to be written consecutively or that define a maximum number of
identical data marks that may be placed next to each other. Neither are constraints imposed that require
25 the data marks to periodically return to a certain level, as with a return to zero code. In other
embodiments, run length limited codes or return to zero codes may be used. In addition to data marks,
system marks are also included periodically in the data stream to facilitate the operation of the modules
described above. Sets of marks that together perform a function are referred to as a field. System
marks may include timing, AGC, and DC control marks that are periodically inserted into the data
30 stream. Some system marks may also be used for multiple purposes.

Figure 5A is a block diagram showing a data block format used in one embodiment. The
preamble (which is described further in Figure 5B) contains sections for clock acquisition, level
calibration, equalizer training, alignment, block address, and, in some embodiments, may also contain a
start of data pattern. The clock acquisition section contains timing and AGC fields with no data in

5 between them so that amplitude modulation can be removed and the clock can be acquired. The level calibration pattern contains long signals at each level to calibrate the system. The alignment sequence is a pseudo random sequence that has a response such that when the alignment sequence is correlated with itself, the correlation has a sharp peak; that is the correlation has a substantially high value at only a location that indicates precise alignment. The equalizer training sequence enables the adjustment of
10 the equalizer to the particular disc and player combination being read. The block address enables the system to uniquely identify the ECC block on the disc. In some embodiments, a start of data pattern sequence identifies the start of the data pattern. In other embodiments, the start of the data pattern is determined by an offset from the alignment block.

The ECC block includes modulation encoded marks and physical format marks. The
15 modulation encoded marks are encoded by the modulation so that their form is altered by the modulation code and the physical format marks are periodically inserted in the data stream after modulation coding so that their form is not altered by the modulation coding. The ECC block (which is shown in Figure 5C) contains an encoded address section, periodic ECC-data synch fields, periodic timing fields, periodic AGC fields, periodic DC control fields, encoded data marks, encoded ECC
20 marks, and encoded trellis clean-up marks. The physical format ECC block marks include periodic ECC-data synch fields, periodic timing fields, periodic AGC fields, and periodic DC control fields. The physical format marks plus the modulation encoded marks comprise the ECC block.

The data marks (g) are interspersed between the other format marks or fields (groups of marks). The address section (a) duplicates the address of the ECC block and also contains an error
25 detection code. The ECC-data synch (b) fields provide location information within the ECC block to aid data recovery. As described above, the timing fields (c) are used to recover the clock, and the AGC (d) fields are used to remove the low-frequency drift in the envelope. The DC control (e) fields are used to control the DC content of the signal. The ECC (f) fields contain the error correction bytes that enable locating and correcting errors in the data stream. Finally, the encoded trellis clean-up marks (h)
30 are used to return the trellis coded marks to a known state at periodic points in the ECC block.

Figure 5D illustrates a postamble sequence. The sequence includes timing fields (c), AGC fields (d), filler data marks (g), and DC control fields (e). DC control fields are used to reduce the output DC level of the data block structure. In some embodiments, the postamble may also contain encoded trellis clean-up marks (h) to leave the trellis in a known state.

5 Figure 6 is a block diagram illustrating a system for writing multilevel marks to a disc. Data from a data buffer 600 is input to an ECC encoding block 601 where ECC check bytes are added to the data stream. In another embodiment, the data may first be scrambled in a predictable way prior to ECC encoding. This can be accomplished with a feed-back shift register or other suitable means. In other
 10 embodiments, the data may be scrambled after ECC encoding. This data is then fed to a multilevel modulation block 602. Multilevel modulation block 602 includes a convolution coding block 604 and a mark block 605 that adds the ECC-data synch fields, the DC control fields, and run length limited (RLL) constraints, if such constraints are implemented. Timing and automatic gain control fields such as are described above are added in a block 606. The data stream is then sent to a precompensator 608 and the output of the precompensator is sent to a multilevel implementer 610 that translates the data
 15 stream into a bit stream in accordance with the laser write strategy selected for the disc being recorded.

In this embodiment, the ECC encoded data is convolutionally encoded. Convolutional encoding adds correlations between data marks. Both these correlations and correlations due to the optical channel's inherent intersymbol interference can enable more accurate decoding of the data sequence by a maximum likelihood detector, such as a Viterbi detector. In one embodiment, in order to
 20 achieve a data rate of 3 bits/mark with $M=12$ levels, the modulation is 2-dimensional such that 6 bits plus 1 parity bit are encoded into a symbol consisting of two adjacent marks. Since 7 bits require 128 symbols, 16 of the possible $12 \times 12 = 144$ symbols are not be used. The 128-cross modulation constellation is given below in Table 1. The symbol assignment is found by taking first the row and then the column number for the value to be encoded. For example, the 7-bit value 64 would be encoded
 25 as two marks of levels 4 and 7. 999 indicates an invalid symbol.

11	999	999	20	97	16	101	100	17	96	21	999	999
10	999	999	107	110	31	26	27	30	111	106	999	999
9	12	41	8	45	92	89	88	93	44	9	40	13
8	35	38	87	2	83	6	7	82	3	86	39	34
7	48	53	68	113	64	117	117	65	112	69	52	49
6	127	58	123	62	79	74	75	78	63	122	59	126
5	124	57	120	61	76	73	72	77	60	121	56	125
4	51	54	71	114	67	118	119	66	115	70	55	50
3	32	37	84	1	80	5	4	81	0	85	36	33
2	15	42	11	46	95	90	91	94	47	10	43	14
1	999	999	104	109	28	25	24	29	108	105	999	999
0	999	999	23	98	19	102	103	18	99	22	999	999
2 nd 1 st	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

5

Table 1

The convolutional encoding is chosen from Table III of "Trellis-Coded Modulation with Redundant Signal Sets, Part 1," Gottfried Ungerboeck, IEEE Communications Magazine, February 1987. The choice is made to balance complexity against coding gain.

10

Mark Block 605 adds the ECC-data synch patterns which are composed of symbols chosen from the 16 symbols not found in the modulation constellation. One embodiment is given below in Table 2.

Sync0	0	11	11	0	0	11	11	0	0	11
Sync1	11	0	0	11	11	0	0	11	11	0
Sync2	1	10	10	1	1	10	10	1	1	10
Sync3	10	1	1	10	10	1	1	10	10	1
Sync4	10	10	1	1	10	1	11	11	0	0
Sync5	0	0	11	11	1	10	1	1	10	10
Sync6	11	11	0	0	10	1	10	10	1	1
Sync7	1	1	10	10	1	10	0	0	11	11
Sync8	0	1	11	10	1	0	1	11	10	10
Sync9	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0
Sync10	11	10	0	0	1	10	10	1	11	1
Sync11	10	1	10	1	10	1	10	1	10	1
Sync12	1	10	11	11	0	0	1	10	11	0

15

Table 2

Next the DC control fields are added. The DC content of the data signal can be measured using a running digital sum (RDS). In a 12-level system, the each level is assigned a DC content value.

20

For example, level 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 are assigned DC content values -11, -9, -7, -5, -3, -1, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 respectively. RDS is the running sum of the DC content values as the data levels are read. By maintaining the RDS near zero, the average data signal level is near center of the amplitude range of the signal. In one embodiment, the DC control fields signify the inversion or not of the data that is found after one DC control field until the next DC control field or timing pattern. For the 12-

25

level modulation code above, inversion would mean that the data mark level k would become data mark level 11-k. In other words, a level 11 would become 0 and a level 3 would become 8. The inversion helps to control the DC content of the data stream. RLL marks can end runs of data at the same level by inserting a mark of a different level at particular locations in the data stream. In one

5 embodiment, the timing, AGC, and DC control fields are frequent enough to act as RLL marks. In other embodiments, separate RLL marks may need to be added.

 The marks are then sent on to the precompensator which adjusts the levels desired taking into account the neighboring marks to remove the effects of intersymbol interference or else cause a certain intersymbol interference target to be realized.

10 If the intersymbol interference is precompensated to a specific target intersymbol interference, the intersymbol interference can be used by the Viterbi detector to better decode the data. The intersymbol interference adds correlations into the data stream so that maximum likelihood detection, as is done when using a Viterbi detector, can better interpret the data signal. Correlations can also be introduced into the data stream explicitly using a convolutional code. In various embodiments,
15 correlations are introduced using several different methods or combinations of such methods. For example, correlations may be introduced by the optical system, can be shaped by using precompensation, can be introduced using a convolutional code, and can be introduced by both ISI and convolutional encoding.

 In addition, in certain embodiments, write calibration is included with the multilevel
20 implementer. Write calibration compensates for changes in the writing of marks on the disc due to age or wear as well as variations in disc characteristics. The write calibration procedure has 3 iterative steps: 1) write a known pattern to the disc, 2) read the pattern, 3) adjust the write strategy to ensure that the pattern written causes the pattern that is read to be the desired read pattern. In one embodiment, the read pattern is compared to a linear filtered version of the written pattern. In this embodiment, the
25 adjustments are made so that the non-linear effects of the system are removed or compensated for by calibration. In other embodiments, both the linear and the non-linear effects of the read and write system can be calibrated or compensated for using this method.

 This procedure allows the player and disc combination to adjust for changes that may affect the writing and reading of data onto the disc. Factors that might be calibrated out using this procedure
30 include laser age, laser temperature, dust on the lens or disc, and variation of the disc materials.

 Finally, the adjusted levels are sent to the multi-level implementer which translates the levels determined using the precompensator and the write calibrator to a series of pulses of specific laser powers of specific durations at specific times.

 Figure 7 shows an arrangement for information storage suitable for a 120 mm optical disc.

- 5 The disc has three main areas: lead-in area (LIA) 705, data area (DA) 710, and lead-out area (LOA) 715. This figure shows the layout of a spiral track represented as one line. The lead-in area is reserved for system and media information. The data area contains about 2 Gigabytes. The lead-out area is also reserved for system and media information. In this embodiment there are 1024 physical information blocks in the LIA. The DA contains user information in 61036 physical information
- 10 blocks. The LOA is reserved for system and media information and occupies 523 physical information blocks. Table 3 contains information regarding the physical format of this disc.

Inner radius	22.5 mm
Outer radius	59.0 mm
Track pitch	1.6 m
Data cell length	0.6 m
Total data cells	9.73×10^9

Table 3

- Referring to Figure 8, there is depicted the format for the physical information blocks. The
- 15 physical information block is made up of link-in 802, preamble 804, data block 1 806, data block 2 810, midamble (MA) 808, postamble 812, and link-out 814. The link areas are neutral areas to ensure that blocks do not overwrite each other. The preamble and postamble are in preparation for and cleaning up after reading a data block. In one embodiment, a block of data organized into sixteen sectors, each of which contains thirteen rows, is placed in data block 1 and data block 2 such that data
- 20 block 1 and data block 2 each contain eight sectors. The link-in region is made up of a fractional oscillating mid-level pattern area (FOM) 816 for dithering the timing marks and a fixed oscillating mid-level pattern area (OM) 818. The size of the link-in is
- $FOM + OM = 695 + \text{round}(a * 87)$ where a is a random fraction between 0 and 1 (and rounded to the nearest integer mark). The pattern for the FOM and OM areas oscillates between levels 3 and 4 for an
- 25 8-level system (levels 0-7). No marks are written during the link-out. The link-out is only a place holder of length $607 - \text{round}(a * 87)$, where a is the same fraction as is used in the link-in.

In Figure 8 the preamble 804 is composed of structures that make each block a stand-alone decodable unit. The block has a timing acquisition area, address area, and areas to adapt to the different channel characteristics. Specifically, the preamble contains the following areas: timing

5 acquisition (TA) 820, time zero locator (TZL) 822, block address (BA) 824, level calibration (LC) 826, and fractionally spaced equalizer adaptation sequence (FA) 828. The total length of the preamble is 2695 marks. The 816 mark timing acquisition (TA) area contains the pattern {0 0 0 7 7 7} repeated 136 times, which allows the PLL to lock-up quickly. The time zero locator (TZL) pattern is made up of sequences of {0 0 0} and {7 7 7}. The TZL was chosen so that the pattern of transitions and lack of

10 transitions between each group of three marks (represented by a 1 and 0 respectively) makes up a 31 bit M-sequence. The pattern of missing transitions allows the synch detector to recognize the end of the high-gain timing acquisition region and allows the PLL to switch to the tracking mode. The TZL ends with eight repetitions of {0 0 0 0 7 7 7 7} to help initialize the digital desnaker. The TZL sequence has a well behaved auto-correlation property. This property of the TZL or alignment sequence is used

15 to precisely locate the beginning of a data block marked by an adjacent TZL sequence. The TZL sequence is shown in Table 4.

Position	TZL	Position	TZL	Position	TZL	Position	TZL
1	7	58	0	115	0	172	7
2	7	59	0	116	0	173	7
3	7	60	0	117	0	174	7
4	7	61	0	118	7	175	0
5	7	62	0	119	7	176	0
6	7	63	0	120	7	177	0
7	0	64	7	121	0	178	0
8	0	65	7	122	0	179	0
9	0	66	7	123	0	180	7
10	7	67	0	124	7	181	7
11	7	68	0	125	7	182	7
12	7	69	0	126	7	183	7
13	7	70	0	127	0	184	7
14	7	71	0	128	0	185	0
15	7	72	0	129	0	186	0
16	0	73	0	130	7	187	0
17	0	74	0	131	7	188	0
18	0	75	0	132	7	189	0
19	7	76	7	133	0	190	7
20	7	77	7	134	0	191	7
21	7	78	7	135	0	192	7
22	0	79	0	136	7	193	7
23	0	80	0	137	7	194	7
24	0	81	0	138	7	195	0
25	0	82	7	139	0	196	0
26	0	83	7	140	0	197	0
27	0	84	7	141	0	198	0
28	7	85	0	142	7	199	0

29	7	86	0	143	7	200	7
30	7	87	0	144	7	201	7
31	7	88	7	145	0	202	7
32	7	89	7	146	0	203	7
33	7	90	7	147	0	204	7
34	0	91	7	148	0	205	0
35	0	92	7	149	0	206	0
36	0	93	7	150	7	207	0
37	0	94	7	151	7	208	0
38	0	95	7	152	7	209	0
39	0	96	7	153	7	210	7
40	0	97	0	154	7	211	7
41	0	98	0	155	0	212	7
42	0	99	0	156	0	213	7
43	0	100	7	157	0	214	7
44	0	101	7	158	0	215	0
45	0	102	7	159	0	216	0
46	0	103	0	160	7	217	0
47	0	104	0	161	7	218	0
48	0	105	0	162	7	219	0
49	7	106	7	163	7	220	7
50	7	107	7	164	7	221	7
51	7	108	7	165	0	222	7
52	7	109	0	166	0	223	7
53	7	110	0	167	0	224	7
54	7	111	0	168	0	225	3
55	7	112	7	169	0	226	4
56	7	113	7	170	7		
57	7	114	7	171	7		

5

Table 4

In Figure 9, the block address (BA) 824 is shown in detail. The BA contains six bytes: three bytes of address 905, two bytes for error detection IED 910, and 1 Reserved byte 915. The address information in the BA consist of four bytes whose bits are numbered from b_0 (LSB) to b_{31} (MSB). The least significant three bytes, bits b_0 to b_{23} 905, specify the block number in binary notation. Each error detection codeword constitutes a matrix whose bytes are identified by $C_j = 0$ to 5. The bytes of the IED are C_4 and C_5 , and

$$IED(x) = \sum_{j=4}^5 C_j x^{5-j} = I(x) x^2 \mod G_E(x)$$

10 where,

$$I(x) = \sum_{j=0}^3 C_j x^{3-j}$$

$$5 \quad G_E(x) = \prod_{k=0}^1 (x + \alpha^k)$$

is the primitive root of the primitive polynomial $P(x) = x^8 + x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + 1$.

For increased error resilience and DC balance, of the BA 824, each bit is represented as two marks and the entire pattern is repeated. A Manchester encoding scheme is used whereby a 0 bit is represented by the marks {0 7}, and a 1 bit is represented by {7 0}. The address information bytes are encoded in 6 bytes * (8 bits/byte) * 2 marks/bit = 96 marks, which are repeated for a total of 192.

The placement of the encoded block address marks is shown in Figure 10. The address is encoded twice. Address information 1 and Address Information 2 1005 and Address Information A and Address Information B 1010 contain the encoded address. The three timing subunits OM1 1015, OM2 1020 and OM3 1025 are filled with oscillating midlevel marks of level 3 and 4. The OM sequence is given in Table 5. The A/T_N 1030, A/T_P 1035, and A/T_N 1040 provide marks for Automatic Gain Control/Timing Field (A/T). The pattern for the A/T fields is {0 0 0 0 0 7 7 7 7} for a positive edge (A/T_P) and {7 7 7 7 7 0 0 0 0 0} for a negative edge (A/T_N) in the 8-level system (levels 0-7).

Position	OM BA	Position	OM BA
1	4	21	4
2	3	22	3
3	4	23	4
4	3	24	3
5	4	25	4
6	3	26	3
7	4	27	4
8	3	28	3
9	4	29	4
10	3	30	3
11	4	31	4
12	3	32	3
13	4	33	4
14	3	34	3
15	4	35	4
16	3	36	3
17	4	37	4
18	3	38	3
19	4	39	4
20	3		

Table 5

The level calibration sequence (LC) 826 is designed to provide level information that is not

5 affected by intersymbol interference. The 4 LC subunits are listed below:

AT_P,LC1 (positions 1-77),

AT_N,LC2 (positions 78-154),

AT_P,LC3 (positions 155-231),

AT_N,LC4 (positions 232-308),

10 where A/T are positive/negative going AGC/Timing field and LC1-LC4 are given in Table 6.

Position	LC 1	Position	LC 2	Position	LC 3	Position	LC 4
1	7	78	0	155	7	232	0
2	4	79	5	156	4	233	5
3	4	80	5	157	4	234	5
4	4	81	5	158	4	235	5
5	4	82	5	159	4	236	5
6	4	83	5	160	4	237	5
7	1	84	2	161	1	238	2
8	1	85	2	162	1	239	2
9	1	86	2	163	1	240	2
10	1	87	2	164	1	241	2
11	1	88	2	165	1	242	2
12	6	89	7	166	6	243	7
13	6	90	7	167	6	244	7
14	6	91	7	168	6	245	7
15	6	92	7	169	6	246	7
16	6	93	7	170	6	247	7
17	3	94	4	171	3	248	4
18	3	95	4	172	3	249	4
19	3	96	4	173	3	250	4
20	3	97	4	174	3	251	4
21	3	98	4	175	3	252	4
22	0	99	1	176	0	253	1
23	0	100	1	177	0	254	1
24	0	101	1	178	0	255	1
25	0	102	1	179	0	256	1
26	0	103	1	180	0	257	1
27	5	104	6	181	5	258	6
28	5	105	6	182	5	259	6
29	5	106	6	183	5	260	6
30	5	107	6	184	5	261	6
31	5	108	6	185	5	262	6
32	2	109	3	186	2	263	3
33	2	110	3	187	2	264	3
34	2	111	3	188	2	265	3
35	2	112	3	189	2	266	3
36	2	113	3	190	2	267	3
37	7	114	0	191	7	268	0
38	7	115	0	192	7	269	0
39	7	116	0	193	7	270	0
40	7	117	0	194	7	271	0
41	7	118	0	195	7	272	0

42	4	119	5	196	4	273	5
43	4	120	5	197	4	274	5
44	4	121	5	198	4	275	5
45	4	122	5	199	4	276	5
46	4	123	5	200	4	277	5
47	1	124	2	201	1	278	2
48	1	125	2	202	1	279	2
49	1	126	2	203	1	280	2
50	1	127	2	204	1	281	2
51	1	128	2	205	1	282	2
52	6	129	7	206	6	283	7
53	6	130	7	207	6	284	7
54	6	131	7	208	6	285	7
55	6	132	7	209	6	286	7
56	6	133	7	210	6	287	7
57	3	134	4	211	3	288	4
58	3	135	4	212	3	289	4
59	3	136	4	213	3	290	4
60	3	137	4	214	3	291	4
61	3	138	4	215	3	292	4
62	0	139	1	216	0	293	1
63	0	140	1	217	0	294	1
64	0	141	1	218	0	295	1
65	0	142	1	219	0	296	1
66	0	143	1	220	0	297	1
67	5	144	6	221	5	298	6
68	5	145	6	222	5	299	6
69	5	146	6	223	5	300	6
70	5	147	6	224	5	301	6
71	5	148	6	225	5	302	6
72	2	149	3	226	2	303	3
73	2	150	3	227	2	304	3
74	2	151	3	228	2	305	3
75	2	152	3	229	2	306	3
76	2	153	3	230	2	307	3
77	7	154	0	231	7	308	0

Table 6

The fractionally spaced equalizer training sequence (FA) 828 is designed to provide level information that is broadband and DC free to train the equalizer taps. The 12 FA timing subunits are listed below:

- 10 A/T_P, FA 1 (positions 1-77),
- A/T_N, FA 2 (positions 78-154),
- A/T_P, FA 3 (positions 155-231),
- A/T_N, FA 4 (positions 232-308),
- A/T_P, FA 5 (positions 309-385),
- 15 A/T_N, FA 6 (positions 386-462),

- 5 A/T_P, FA 7 (positions 463-539),
 A/T_N, FA 8 (positions 540-616),
 A/T_P, FA 9 (positions 617-693),
 A/T_N, FA 10 (positions 694-770),
 A/T_P, FA 11 (positions 771-847),
 10 A/T_N, FA 12 (positions 848-924),

where A/T are a positive/negative going AGC/Timing field and FA 1- FA 12 are given in the tables

7A, 7B and 7C.

Position	FA1	Position	FA2	Position	FA3	Position	FA4
1	3	78	2	155	0	232	7
2	7	79	5	156	5	233	2
3	1	80	2	157	7	234	2
4	3	81	7	158	1	235	6
5	6	82	1	159	5	236	1
6	2	83	3	160	0	237	1
7	1	84	4	161	6	238	4
8	7	85	1	162	2	239	6
9	2	86	4	163	5	240	0
10	1	87	7	164	2	241	7
11	7	88	0	165	7	242	3
12	3	89	5	166	1	243	5
13	2	90	7	167	4	244	3
14	7	91	2	168	2	245	3
15	3	92	2	169	5	246	2
16	1	93	7	170	0	247	6
17	2	94	3	171	5	248	1
18	7	95	2	172	5	249	5
19	2	96	0	173	3	250	1
20	3	97	7	174	4	251	7
21	5	98	1	175	3	252	0
22	3	99	4	176	4	253	6
23	3	100	4	177	5	254	1
24	0	101	1	178	1	255	4
25	6	102	4	179	4	256	7
26	4	103	5	180	6	257	3
27	2	104	6	181	1	258	2
28	5	105	0	182	5	259	6
29	2	106	7	183	3	260	3
30	4	107	1	184	1	261	2
31	7	108	4	185	4	262	1
32	3	109	7	186	5	263	6
33	1	110	3	187	3	264	1
34	5	111	2	188	5	265	7
35	3	112	1	189	0	266	1
36	0	113	5	190	6	267	5
37	6	114	1	191	4	268	2
38	5	115	7	192	2	269	7

39	0	116	1	193	4	270	0
40	7	117	5	194	5	271	7
41	3	118	1	195	0	272	0
42	3	119	5	196	5	273	5
43	4	120	6	197	6	274	3
44	0	121	0	198	0	275	5
45	7	122	5	199	7	276	3
46	1	123	2	200	2	277	1
47	6	124	4	201	4	278	7
48	0	125	4	202	1	279	0
49	4	126	7	203	7	280	5
50	4	127	1	204	2	281	2
51	4	128	0	205	5	282	7
52	7	129	5	206	3	283	1
53	2	130	5	207	0	284	5
54	3	131	4	208	7	285	2
55	3	132	0	209	3	286	6
56	7	133	6	210	0	287	3
57	1	134	7	211	7	288	2
58	2	135	2	212	0	289	1
59	5	136	3	213	6	290	6
60	1	137	3	214	6	291	7
61	6	138	0	215	1	292	1
62	0	139	4	216	6	293	0
63	5	140	5	217	1	294	7
64	6	141	4	218	7	295	2
65	2	142	7	219	2	296	7
66	6	143	1	220	0	297	0
67	3	144	0	221	6	298	5
68	3	145	4	222	0	299	2
69	3	146	4	223	4	300	4
70	3	147	5	224	5	301	2
71	1	148	6	225	4	302	5
72	5	149	0	226	5	303	2
73	5	150	6	227	3	304	5
74	1	151	2	228	1	305	0
75	6	152	6	229	7	306	6
76	1	153	0	230	3	307	4
77	6	154	6	231	2	308	5

Table 7A

Position	FA5	Position	FA6	Position	FA7	Position	FA8
309	3	386	1	463	1	540	2
310	0	387	6	464	6	541	2
311	7	388	3	465	6	542	2
312	1	389	4	466	3	543	7
313	7	390	1	467	2	544	0
314	0	391	7	468	2	545	7
315	7	392	0	469	7	546	1
316	1	393	5	470	3	547	7
317	4	394	5	471	1	548	3
318	4	395	3	472	5	549	3
319	3	396	3	473	2	550	2
320	5	397	2	474	4	551	2
321	3	398	7	475	4	552	5
322	1	399	1	476	3	553	2
323	5	400	5	477	5	554	5
324	6	401	0	478	1	555	2
325	3	402	4	479	6	556	4
326	3	403	6	480	1	557	2
327	2	404	0	481	7	558	7
328	7	405	7	482	1	559	3
329	2	406	3	483	3	560	2
330	0	407	1	484	4	561	4
331	7	408	7	485	2	562	2
332	2	409	3	486	5	563	6
333	5	410	1	487	0	564	1
334	3	411	4	488	7	565	6
335	0	412	7	489	3	566	0
336	7	413	1	490	7	567	5
337	1	414	4	491	2	568	6
338	4	415	0	492	2	569	3
339	7	416	5	493	0	570	2
340	0	417	4	494	5	571	7
341	6	418	4	495	7	572	3
342	2	419	6	496	1	573	1
343	7	420	2	497	7	574	3
344	3	421	1	498	3	575	5
345	2	422	5	499	3	576	2
346	3	423	4	500	2	577	5
347	2	424	5	501	4	578	2
348	5	425	2	502	3	579	7
349	3	426	5	503	5	580	2
350	2	427	3	504	1	581	2
351	5	428	1	505	4	582	2
352	1	429	7	506	4	583	6
353	7	430	2	507	2	584	0
354	3	431	0	508	4	585	6
355	2	432	6	509	6	586	3
356	7	433	6	510	2	587	3
357	2	434	3	511	1	588	6
358	3	435	1	512	4	589	1
359	2	436	4	513	4	590	5
360	6	437	5	514	5	591	3

361	3	438	2	515	6	592	2
362	2	439	7	516	3	593	5
363	6	440	1	517	0	594	1
364	1	441	4	518	6	595	7
365	3	442	0	519	0	596	3
366	4	443	6	520	5	597	0
367	1	444	6	521	7	598	5
368	4	445	3	522	1	599	7
369	4	446	1	523	5	600	1
370	6	447	5	524	2	601	6
371	0	448	2	525	1	602	0
372	5	449	7	526	4	603	7
373	6	450	2	527	7	604	3
374	2	451	1	528	1	605	2
375	1	452	5	529	6	606	1
376	5	453	5	530	0	607	6
377	7	454	0	531	5	608	1
378	1	455	6	532	4	609	4
379	0	456	3	533	1	610	6
380	4	457	7	534	4	611	2
381	6	458	1	535	6	612	7
382	4	459	0	536	1	613	1
383	4	460	7	537	6	614	1
384	3	461	0	538	3	615	6
385	4	462	6	539	7	616	3

Table 7B

Position	FA9	Position	FA10	Position	FA11	Position	FA12
617	1	694	4	771	6	848	1
618	4	695	4	772	3	849	4
619	5	696	0	773	0	850	6
620	6	697	5	774	5	851	1
621	3	698	7	775	2	852	4
622	1	699	0	776	4	853	1
623	6	700	4	777	5	854	4
624	0	701	5	778	3	855	5
625	6	702	0	779	1	856	6
626	2	703	6	780	4	857	1
627	7	704	7	781	4	858	6
628	1	705	0	782	7	859	0
629	2	706	4	783	2	860	6
630	6	707	5	784	2	861	1
631	3	708	1	785	4	862	4
632	0	709	7	786	6	863	7
633	7	710	2	787	1	864	3
634	2	711	2	788	4	865	0
635	7	712	6	789	5	866	6
636	2	713	2	790	2	867	3
637	3	714	2	791	7	868	1
638	0	715	5	792	2	869	6
639	5	716	0	793	3	870	2
640	4	717	5	794	3	871	5
641	7	718	6	795	2	872	0
642	0	719	1	796	5	873	7
643	7	720	4	797	0	874	3
644	0	721	7	798	6	875	7
645	7	722	3	799	6	876	0
646	2	723	3	800	2	877	1
647	1	724	2	801	3	878	6
648	7	725	1	802	3	879	4
649	2	726	6	803	0	880	0
650	2	727	0	804	6	881	4
651	4	728	7	805	6	882	4
652	6	729	5	806	0	883	7
653	0	730	1	807	5	884	2
654	5	731	6	808	4	885	0
655	5	732	0	809	1	886	6
656	0	733	4	810	4	887	5
657	5	734	7	811	5	888	0
658	4	735	2	812	6	889	4
659	1	736	2	813	2	890	4
660	7	737	7	814	2	891	5
661	2	738	2	815	4	892	7
662	4	739	0	816	7	893	2
663	0	740	4	817	1	894	0
664	5	741	7	818	0	895	7
665	6	742	3	819	7	896	1
666	3	743	0	820	3	897	4
667	2	744	6	821	7	898	7
668	5	745	6	822	3	899	3
669	2	746	2	823	0	900	0

670	4	747	3	824	7	901	5
671	6	748	0	825	0	902	2
672	0	749	7	826	5	903	4
673	7	750	0	827	2	904	6
674	3	751	4	828	4	905	1
675	0	752	7	829	6	906	4
676	7	753	3	830	0	907	3
677	2	754	0	831	7	908	6
678	6	755	6	832	2	909	0
679	1	756	6	833	0	910	7
680	6	757	2	834	4	911	1
681	3	758	1	835	4	912	4
682	1	759	7	836	6	913	7
683	7	760	3	837	2	914	1
684	2	761	1	838	7	915	3
685	0	762	7	839	2	916	1
686	5	763	0	840	2	917	6
687	6	764	5	841	7	918	2
688	3	765	3	842	2	919	4
689	3	766	7	843	0	920	4
690	1	767	1	844	4	921	2
691	5	768	1	845	6	922	4
692	4	769	5	846	0	923	7
693	3	770	4	847	7	924	1

Table 7C

The data block contains the ECC protected user data. In one embodiment, it is made up of 2 sections, shown as 806 and 810 in Figure 8 with a total of 16 sectors (S0-S15) 830 and 15 sector closeout/resynch areas (SCR0-14) 832. Between the two data blocks is the Midamble (MA) 808 which contains another training sequence for the equalizer. Figure 11 shows the arrangement of the SCR areas. The SCR areas are made up of 4 TSUs for a total of 348 marks. After the initial 10 mark A/Tp pattern 1105, the next 18 Sector Closeout marks 1110 are used to zero out the Running Digital Sum (RDS) of each sector.

In an 8 level system, upon entering the SCR, the $RDS = \Sigma (2 * \text{mark} - 7)$, where the sum is over all the DCC, Data, and TCU marks in previous sector, plus any residual RDS that may not have been completely cleared by previous Sector Closeout sections. In the rare occurrence that the SCR cannot zero out the RDS any residual value is carried into the next section. The algorithm for the mark assignment in the SCR is given by the following steps:

- 1) Minimize the Block RDS by writing a 0, 3, 4, or 7 mark. Specifically, take the current RDS and decrement by 7 for a mark zero.
- decrement by 1 for a mark three.

- 5 increment by 1 for a mark four.
increment by 7 for a mark seven.

The choice is based on which one achieves the minimum absolute value of the RDS. If two marks give the same value then the lowest value of the mark (i.e. prefer a 0 to a 3...) is chosen

- 2) Step 1 is repeated until the end of the sector close out section. Once the RDS=0, the marks alternate
10 between 3 and 4. In the rare event that 18 marks may not be enough to zero the RDS, any residual value will be carried over until the next sector.

- The second section of the SCR (Timing Resynch) 1115 is 320 marks long and is used for the reacquisition of timing in the event that the PLL loses lock. This sequence is similar to the TA 820 and TZL 822 except it contains A/T patterns and is shorter. It consists of repeated patterns of {0 0 0 7 7 7}
15 between the DC closeout 1110 and the second A/T pattern, and also between the second and third A/T pattern. This allows the PLL to lock-up if necessary. Starting with the fourth A/T pattern a sequence of dropped edges allows the synch detector to recognize the end of the high-gain timing acquisition region and allows the PLL to switch to the tracking mode. The pattern of missing edges is given by 0 1 0
1 1 1 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 1, where a 0 represents a missing transition and a 1 represents a
20 transition. The sequence is finished with more repeated patterns of {0 0 0 7 7 7}. The 4 SCR timing subunits are listed below:

A/T_P, 18 Marks of DC Close Out, Resynch 1 (positions 1-59),

A/T_N, Resynch 2 (positions 60-136),

A/T_P, Resynch 3 (positions 137-213),

- 25 A/T_N, Resynch 4 (positions 214-290),

The sequences for Resynch 2, Resynch 3, Resynch 3 and Resynch 4 are given in Table 8.

Position	Resynch 1	Position	Resynch 2	Position	Resynch 3	Position	Resynch 4
1	7	60	0	137	7	214	0
2	0	61	7	138	0	215	7
3	0	62	7	139	0	216	7
4	0	63	7	140	0	217	7
5	7	64	0	141	7	218	0
6	7	65	0	142	7	219	0
7	7	66	0	143	7	220	0
8	0	67	7	144	0	221	7
9	0	68	7	145	0	222	7
10	0	69	7	146	0	223	7
11	7	70	0	147	7	224	0
12	7	71	0	148	7	225	0
13	7	72	0	149	7	226	0
14	0	73	7	150	0	227	0
15	0	74	7	151	0	228	0
16	0	75	7	152	0	229	0
17	7	76	0	153	7	230	0
18	7	77	0	154	7	231	0
19	7	78	0	155	7	232	0
20	0	79	7	156	0	233	0
21	0	80	7	157	0	234	0
22	0	81	7	158	0	235	0
23	7	82	0	159	7	236	7
24	7	83	0	160	7	237	7
25	7	84	0	161	7	238	7
26	0	85	7	162	0	239	7
27	0	86	7	163	0	240	7
28	0	87	7	164	0	241	7
29	7	88	0	165	7	242	7
30	7	89	0	166	7	243	7
31	7	90	0	167	7	244	7
32	0	91	7	168	0	245	0
33	0	92	7	169	0	246	0
34	0	93	7	170	0	247	0
35	7	94	0	171	7	248	7
36	7	95	0	172	7	249	7
37	7	96	0	173	7	250	7
38	0	97	7	174	0	251	7
39	0	98	7	175	0	252	7
40	0	99	7	176	0	253	7
41	7	100	0	177	7	254	0
42	7	101	0	178	7	255	0
43	7	102	0	179	7	256	0
44	0	103	7	180	0	257	7
45	0	104	7	181	0	258	7
46	0	105	7	182	0	259	7
47	7	106	0	183	7	260	0
48	7	107	0	184	7	261	0
49	7	108	0	185	7	262	0
50	0	109	7	186	0	263	7
51	0	110	7	187	0	264	7
52	0	111	7	188	0	265	7
53	7	112	0	189	7	266	0

54	7	113	0	190	7	267	0
55	7	114	0	191	7	268	0
56	0	115	7	192	0	269	7
57	0	116	7	193	0	270	7
58	0	117	7	194	0	271	7
59	7	118	0	195	7	272	0
		119	0	196	7	273	0
		120	0	197	7	274	0
		121	7	198	0	275	7
		122	7	199	0	276	7
		123	7	200	0	277	7
		124	0	201	7	278	0
		125	0	202	7	279	0
		126	0	203	7	280	0
		127	7	204	0	281	7
		128	7	205	0	282	7
		129	7	206	0	283	7
		130	0	207	7	284	0
		131	0	208	7	285	0
		132	0	209	7	286	0
		133	7	210	0	287	7
		134	7	211	0	288	7
		135	7	212	0	289	7
		136	0	213	7	290	0

Table 8

Referring to Figure 12, the ECC encoding starts with a block of data and adds both an inner 1210 and outer 1215 parity (PI + PO). The data block is arranged into 192 rows by 172 columns to which 16 rows and 5 columns of parity are added. In one embodiment the 5 bytes of inner parity are the first 5 bytes of a punctured 10-byte Reed-Solomon codeword. This gives an ECC row of 177 bytes.

The rows 834, Figure 8, are then rearranged to form sectors 830 where after every 12 rows of data, one of the outer parity rows is added to produce a sector of 13 rows. Each 177-byte row is then packed in to the row structure 836 TSA, TSB, TSB, TSB, TSD, TSB, TSB, TSC. The bytes are packed in to the marks as described in Table 9.

1 Row = 177 bytes	
TSA, TSB, TSB, TSB stores 90 bytes	TSD, TSB, TSB, TSC stores 87 bytes
bits for mark conversion: 90 bytes = 720 bits	4 bits added for mark conversion: 87 bytes + 4 bits = 700 bits
2.5 bits are encoded per data mark: $720/2.5 = 288$ marks	2.5 bits are encoded per data mark: $700/2.5 = 280$ marks
TSA, TSB, TSB, TSB = $66+74+74+74=288$ data marks	TSD, TSB, TSB, TSC = $66+74+74+66=280$ data marks

Table 9

The rows are composed of 4 different timing subunits (TSA 840, TSB 842, TSC 844, and TSD 846). Each timing subunit is 87 marks long. Each row contains 8 timing subunits. The TSA

- 5 structure contains an AGC/timing field (A/T) 848, DC control fields (DCC) 852, an ECC row data synch pattern (Dsyn) 850, and data 854. The TSB structure contains an AGC/timing field (A/T), DC control fields (DCC), and data. The TSC structure contains an AGC/timing field (A/T), DC control fields (DCC), data and a trellis close-out section (TCU) 856. The TSD structure contains an AGC/timing field (A/T), DC control fields (DCC), data and a trellis close-out section (TCU) 856. The
- 10 mark counts are shown in Table 10 for the different timing subunits.

Timing Subunit A		Timing Subunit B		Timing Subunit C		Timing Subunit D	
Mark Type	# of Marks	Mark Type	# of Marks	Mark Type	# of Marks	Mark Type	# of Marks
A/T	10	A/T	10	A/T	10	A/T	10
Dsyn	8	DCC	1	DCC	1	DCC	1
DCC	1	Data	25	Data	25	TCU	8
Data	22	DCC	1	DCC	1	Data	17
DCC	1	Data	24	Data	24	DCC	1
Data	22	DCC	1	DCC	1	Data	24
DCC	1	Data	25	Data	17	DCC	1
Data	22			TCU	8	Data	25

Table 10

- The Dsyn data synchronization pattern at the beginning of each row is a sequence of 8 marks
- 15 indicating the row's position within the sector. There are 13 different Dsyn patterns chosen to be as distinct as possible from user data. Each Dsyn pattern must be DC balanced, since it does not occur within a DCC block. The patterns start with 1, 2, 5, or 6 in order to be distinct from a DCC mark which are the only other possible symbols after an A/T pattern. The patterns also end with 1, 2, 5, or 6 to minimize alignment errors since a DCC mark will follow the Dsyn. The pattern chosen is also one that
- 20 cannot be generated when the trellis encoder is in one of the first two possible states, state 0 and state 0, 23, 98, or 117. Finally the patterns were chosen to have long sequences of repeated marks. The Dsyn patterns are shown in Table 11.

Row	Dsyn Pattern
0	1 1 1 1 6 6 6 6
1	1 1 4 4 4 4 5 5
2	1 1 6 6 6 6 1 1
3	2 2 2 2 5 5 5 5
4	2 2 3 3 3 3 6 6
5	2 2 5 5 5 5 2 2
6	5 5 2 2 2 2 5 5
7	5 5 4 4 4 4 1 1
8	5 5 5 5 2 2 2 2
9	5 5 7 7 1 1 1 1

10	6 6 1 1 1 1 6 6
11	6 6 3 3 3 3 2 2
12	6 6 6 6 1 1 1 1

Table 11

The DCC marks are chosen to minimize the RDS of the following data marks. The DCC may take on a value of 0,3,4, or 7 for the mark. A mark of 3 or 4 indicates that the following data, including the TCU if any, is inverted.

In one embodiment the ECC encoded data is convolutionally encoded. Figure 13 shows a convolutional encoder. First the data is convolutionally encoded so that 5-bits of user data 1305 are encoded into 6-bits 1310 which in turn are encoded into two marks. The encoder can support the maximum constraint length = 8. It is programmable through the enable bits H0[8:0], H1[7:0], H2[7:0]. Table 12 shows the possible settings of the Trellis Encoder in octal.

Constraint Length	H0	H1	H2
3	11	02	04
4	23	04	16
5	41	06	10
6	101	016	064
7	203	014	042
8	401	056	304

Table 12

Table 13 below shows the mapping 6 bits into 2 marks. Since the 6-bits represent 64 values and an 8-level system has 64 states for 2 marks, there are no illegal mark pairs.

Second Mark (D5, D4, D3, where D5 is MSB)	7	0	5	20	17	16	21	4	1
	6	15	10	27	30	31	26	11	14
	5	60	57	40	45	44	41	56	61
	4	51	54	39	34	35	38	55	50
	3	48	53	36	33	32	37	52	49
	2	63	58	43	46	47	42	59	62
	1	12	9	24	29	28	25	8	13
	0	3	6	23	18	19	22	7	2
First Mark (D2, D1, D0, where D2 is MSB)									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	

Table 13

Twice per row, the trellis is closed out in order to limit the traceback depth and to limit the propagation of Viterbi induced error events. This is done by using a restricted set of states at the end of one of these intervals in order to guarantee that the trellis will be in a given state at the end of the close

- 5 out. This anchors the decoder and provides extra knowledge for the traceback. The chosen state is 0, and the available states are reduced by a factor of 4 at each stage until at the end of 4 steps, the 0 state is the only choice. This process thus adds 16 marks to each row.

The midamble (MA) 808 repeats the level calibration sequence (LC) 826 and the fractionally spaced equalizer training area (FA) 828 to allow twice-per-block adaptation of the fractionally spaced
 10 equalizer. The level calibration sequence (LC) is designed to provide level information that is not affected by intersymbol interference. The sequence is given in Table 6 above. The fractionally spaced equalizer training sequence (FA) is designed to provide level information that is broadband and DC free to train the equalizer taps. The sequence is given in Tables 7A, 7B, and 7C above.

The postamble 812 is 2 timing subunits long (174 marks), consisting of only A/T patterns and
 15 DC control marks. Its purpose is to zero out the Running Digital Sum (RDS) of the ECC block. Upon entering the postamble, the $RDS = \sum (2 * \text{mark} - 7)$, where the sum is over all the DCC, Data, and TCU marks in Data Blocks 1 & 2. All other parts of the physical blocks should be independently DC balanced. The algorithm for the mark assignment in the postamble is given by the following:

- 1) Minimize the Block RDS by writing a 0, 3, 4, or 7. Specifically, take the current RDS and
 20 decrement by 7 for a mark zero.
 decrement by 1 for a mark three.
 increment by 1 for a mark four.
 increment by 7 for a mark seven.

The choice based on which one achieves the minimum absolute value of the RDS. If two
 25 marks give the same value then choose the lowest value of the mark (i.e. prefer a 0 to a 3...)
 2). Repeat step 1 until the end of the clean up section. Once $RDS=0$, the marks will alternate between the values 3 and 4.

Figure 14 depicts an overall view of a disc having Address In Pregroove and containing three
 main areas, lead-in (LIA) 1405, lead-out (LOA) 1410, and data area (DA) 1415. The Address in
 30 Pregroove (AIP) is designed to provide addressing information for the disc player independent of information written in the data blocks. In the preferred embodiment, the AIP information is modulated on a carrier and then placed on the recording track of a recordable optical media during the manufacture of the media. In one embodiment there are 5 AIP frames per data block. The Figure 14 shows the layout of the spiral track represented as one long line.

- 5 The lead-in area 1405 is reserved for system and media information and the AIP format contains special information in this area in addition to addressing information. The data area 1405 contains AIP frames with only addressing information. The lead-out area 1415 contains AIP frames with only addressing information.

- The lead-in area is reserved for system and media information and special information in the
10 AIP reserve bits. There are 5 AIP addresses for each of the 1024 physical information blocks. This area is addressed using the following:

AIP LIA address = -5120 corresponding to LIA start block address = -1024

AIP LIA address = -5 corresponding to LIA end block address = -1

- The data area contains user information. There are 5 AIP addresses for each of the 61036
15 physical information blocks. This area is addressed using the following:

AIP DA address = 0 corresponding to DA start block address = 0

AIP DA address = 305,175 corresponding to DA end block address = 61,035

The lead-out area is reserved for system and media information. There are 5 AIP addresses for each of the 523 physical information blocks. This area is addressed using the following:

- 20 AIP LOA address = 305,180 corresponding to LOA start block address = 61,036

AIP LOA address = 307,780 corresponding to LOA end block address = 61,558

Figure 15 shows the arrangement of the bits in an AIP frame. The AddressC,B,A 1505 are incremented monotonically. Since there are 5 AIP frames per physical block, the physical block address is equal to the AddressC,B,A / 5. Table 15 depicts parameters associated with one
25 embodiment.

carrier frequency	88.20 KHz (at 4x speed or 4.8m/s)
Modulation	FM biphase-mark (00 or 11 for 0, 01 or 10 for 1, transition guaranteed at beginning of bit) Biphase clock 25.200 KHz Bit rate clock 12.600 KHz (7 wobble oscillations per bit) 1 KHz $\pm$ 10% deviation < -40dB THD sine wave oscillator output
data bit-rate	12600 bits/sec (at 4x speed or 4.8m/s)
frame length	49 bits
Frame synch mark	11100001111000 if preceding cell is a 0 00011110000111 if preceding cell is a 1 (these are both dc balanced biphase violations)
Special Info Area	Default Special Info Case = 1 1 1 1
Data format	AddressC : (C1..C8) MSBit (C1) on position 12 AddressB : (B1..B8) MSBit (B1) on position 20 AddressA : (A1..A8) MSBit (A1) on position 28 Address C,B,A are a 3-byte signed integer (000001h = 1 and FFFFFFFh = -1)

Error Protection	14-bit CRC is used on bits 8-35 (MSBit=8 LSBit=35) of the AIP frame. CRC Bits 36-49 are inverted on the disc. The check polynomial is: $P(x) = x^{14} + x^{12} + x^{10} + x^7 + x^4 + x^2 + 1$
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Table 15

The LIA 1405 section contains system, media, and special information stored in the AIP. This information is grouped into blocks (corresponding to Physical Blocks). Information is limited to starting parameters for writing and reading. There are 3 different types of AIP blocks: Types 0, 1, and 2. AIP Block Type 0 is followed by one to four pairs of AIP Block Type 1 and 2. The number of pairs is determined by the number of reference speeds. This information appears in the Lead-in Area starting at address AIP LIA address = -5120 and is repeated as many times as the complete information will fit into the lead in area. For the case of four speeds the total information stored would require $9 \times 5 = 45$ AIP frames, and would be repeated 113 times and occupy AIP addresses -5120 to -36.

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Figures 16,17 and 18 show the layout for the information bits stored in the reserve bits of the AIP frames corresponding to Type 0, Type 1 and Type 2 blocks respectively. Each block contains information in the 20 reserve bits (4 bits / AIP frame * 5 AIP frames / AIP block). As shown in Figure 16, AIP block type 0 will start off with a 4 bit sync word 1605 of all 1s. For all fields in the special information, a value of all 1s is forbidden. This guarantees that the data in the special information cannot emulate the sync. Table 16 details the type of information stored in the reserve bits corresponding to the layout of Figures 16, 17 and 18.

20

AIP Block Type	B1,B2
Additional Info Bits	AA1,AA2
Disk Type	D1,D2,D3,D4
Disc Use Application	U1,U2,U3,U4
Number of Reference Speeds	N1,N2
Additional Info Bits	AB1,AB2
For each reference speed(i), the following data will be stored	
Reference Speed(i)	S1(i),S2(i)
Power, Melt(i)	PM1(i),PM2(i),PM3(i),PM4(i)
Power, Growth(i)	PG1(i),PG2(i),PG3(i),PG4(i)
Additional Info Bits(i)	AC1(i),AC2(i),AC3(i),AC4(i),AC5(i),AC6(i),AC7(i),AC8(i)
Time, Melt	TM1(i),TM2(i),TM3(i),TM4(i)
Time, Growth Bottom(i)	TB1(i),TB2(i),TB3(i),TB4(i)
Time, Growth Top(i)	TT1(i),TT2(i),TT3(i),TT4(i)
Additional Info Bits(i)	AD1(i),AD2(i),AD3(i),AD4(i)

Table 16

The writing of adjacent blocks on the disc poses several problems which the AIP format tries to address. First, media speed or spindle speed must be controlled in order to assure the write strategy

25

5 is correct. Second, the write clock must be controlled to ensure that, given the spindle speed and the track run-out, the block fits within the AIP wobble address space. And third, the drive-to-drive variation must not allow the overwriting of the previous or next data block.

Each physical block write is independent. Referring to Figure 19, writing of a data block is synchronized to an AIP_Match signal 1905. After one block is written, the next block is again
10 synchronized to the AIP_Match signal to ensure that any block over-run or under-run does not accumulate during a long write. Decoding of the AIP Frame with start address 1910 produces the AIP Match signal. The AIP_Match signal is synchronized to the wobble clock generated by the wobble PLL. The delay from the end of the AIP Frame is $d1 \pm \Delta_{d1}$ 1915 after the synch mark of the next AIP Frame 1920, where Δ_{d1} is small compared to a wobble. The starting of a write is $d2 \pm \Delta_{d2}$ 1925 after the
15 AIP_Match signal.

Referring to Figure 20 writing stops when it reaches the Lead-Out area d_3 2010. If this occurs after the AIP_Match signal 2005 a write fault is generated and the writing stops at $d4 \pm \Delta_{d4}$ 2015. To prevent data overwrites d_4 is less than d_2 1925.

A system for writing data to a multilevel disc and reading data from the multilevel disc has
20 been disclosed. The read system compensates for noise introduced in the read signal by using an adaptive FSE. In addition, precompensation is performed before a signal is written to the disk. Special fields are written to the disc to facilitate clock recovery and automatic gain compensation. Other fields control the DC bias of the signal read from the disk.

Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail for purposes of clarity of
25 understanding, it will be apparent that certain changes and modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims. It should be noted that there are many alternative ways of implementing both the process and apparatus of the present invention. Accordingly, the present embodiments are to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive, and the invention is not to be limited to the details given herein, but may be modified within the scope and equivalents of the appended claims.

30 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5

CLAIMS

10

1. An information block in a multilevel optical data system, said information block comprising:

a preamble comprising:

a timing acquisition area;

a preamble level calibration area; and

an equalizer training area;

a data block; and

a postamble.

15

2. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 1 wherein said preamble

includes:

a time zero locator area; and

a block address.

20

3. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 1 wherein said postamble includes timing subunits, said timing subunits containing an AGC/timing area and a DC control area.

4. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 1 wherein said data block contains ECC protected data having inner parity and outer parity.

5. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 1 further including:

a link-in area prior to said preamble, said link-in area comprising:

25

an oscillating mid-level pattern area; and

a link-out area.

6. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 4 wherein said ECC protected data has punctured inner parity.

30

7. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 4 wherein said ECC protected data is convolutionally encoded such that m bits are encoded into n bits.

8. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 7 where n is greater than m.

- 5 9. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 7 wherein said data block is organized into sectors containing a plurality of rows.
10. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 9 where said data block contains sixteen sectors of thirteen rows.
11. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 9 wherein a sector
- 10 closeout/resynch area is associated with a sector.
12. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 9 wherein said rows include:
- an AGC/Timing area;
 - an ECC row data synch pattern;
 - 15 a DC control area; and
 - an ECC block row.
13. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 11 wherein said sector closeout/resynch areas include:
- an AGC/Timing area;
 - 20 a DC control area for the previous sector; and
 - a timing reacquisition area.
14. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 12 wherein said rows further include trellis closeout areas.
15. An information block in a multilevel optical data system, said format comprising:
- 25 a preamble comprising:
- a timing acquisition area;
 - a preamble level calibration area; and
 - a preamble equalizer training area;
 - a first data block;
 - 30 a midamble including:
 - a midamble level calibration area; and
 - a midamble equalizer training area;
 - a second data block; and
 - a postamble.

- 5 16. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 15 wherein said preamble includes:
- a time zero locator area; and
- a block address.
- 10 17. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 15 wherein said postamble includes timing subunits, said timing subunits containing an AGC/timing area and a DC control area.
18. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 15 wherein said first data block and said second data block contain ECC protected data having inner parity and outer parity.
19. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 15 further including:
- 15 a link-in area prior to said preamble, said link-in area comprising;
- a oscillating mid-level pattern area; and
- a link-out area.
20. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 18 wherein said ECC protected data has punctured inner parity.
- 20 21. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 18 wherein said ECC protected data is convolutionally encoded such that m bits are encoded into n bits.
22. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 21 where n is greater than m .
23. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 21 wherein first data
- 25 block and said second data block are organized into sectors containing a plurality of rows.
24. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 23 where said first data block and said second data block each contain eight sectors of thirteen rows.
25. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 23 wherein a sector closeout/resynch area is associated with a sector.

- 5 26. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 23 wherein said rows include:
- an AGC/Timing area;
 - an ECC row data synch pattern;
 - a DC control area; and
 - 10 an ECC block row.
27. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 25 wherein said sector closeout/resynch areas include:
- an AGC/Timing area;
 - a DC control area for the previous sector; and
 - 15 a timing reacquisition area.
28. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 26 wherein said rows further include trellis closeout areas.
29. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc, said multilevel pattern comprising:
- a preamble comprising:
 - 20 a timing acquisition area;
 - a preamble level calibration area; and
 - an equalizer training area;
 - a data block; and
 - a postamble.
- 25 30. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 29 wherein said preamble includes:
- a time zero locator area; and
 - a block address.
31. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 29 wherein said
- 30 postamble includes timing subunits, said timing subunits containing an AGC/timing area and a DC control area.
32. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 29 wherein said data block contains ECC protected data having inner parity and outer parity.
33. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 29 further including:

- 5 a link-in area prior to said preamble, said link-in area comprising;
an oscillating mid-level pattern area; and
a link-out area.

34. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 32 wherein said ECC protected data has punctured inner parity.

- 10 35. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 32 wherein said ECC protected data is convolutionally encoded such that m bits are encoded into n bits.

36. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 35 where n is greater than m .

- 15 37. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 35 wherein said data block is organized into sectors containing a plurality of rows.

38. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 37 where said data block contains sixteen sectors of thirteen rows.

39. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 37 wherein a sector closeout/resynch area is associated with a sector.

- 20 40. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 37 wherein said rows include:

- an AGC/Timing area;
- an ECC row data synch pattern;
- a DC control area; and
- 25 an ECC block row.

41. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 39 wherein said sector closeout/resynch areas include:

- an AGC/Timing area;
- a DC control area for the previous sector; and
- 30 a timing reacquisition area.

42. An information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 40 wherein said rows further include trellis closeout areas.

43. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc, said multilevel pattern comprising:
a preamble comprising:

- 5 a timing acquisition area;
 a preamble level calibration area; and
 a preamble equalizer training area;
a first data block;
a midamble including:
- 10 a midamble level calibration area; and
 a midamble equalizer training area;
a second data block; and
a postamble.
44. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 43 wherein said
15 preamble includes:
 a time zero locator area; and
 a block address.
45. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 43 wherein said
postamble includes timing subunits, said timing subunits containing an AGC/timing area and a DC
20 control area.
46. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 43 wherein said first
data block and said second data block contain ECC protected data having inner parity and outer parity.
47. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 43 further including:
 a link-in area prior to said preamble, said link-in area comprising;
25 an oscillating mid-level pattern area; and
 a link-out area.
48. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 46 wherein said ECC
protected data has punctured inner parity.
49. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 46 wherein said ECC
30 protected data is convolutionally encoded such that m bits are encoded into n bits.
50. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 49 where n is greater
than m.
51. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 49 wherein said first
data block and said second data block are organized into sectors containing a plurality of rows.

- 5 52. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 51 where said first data block and said second data block each contain eight sectors of thirteen rows.
53. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 51 wherein a sector closeout/resynch area is associated with a sector.
54. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 51 wherein said rows
- 10 include:
- an AGC/Timing area;
 - an ECC row data synch pattern;
 - a DC control area; and
 - an ECC block row.
- 15 55. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 53 wherein said sector closeout/resynch areas include:
- an AGC/Timing area;
 - a DC control area for the previous sector; and
 - a timing reacquisition area.
- 20 56. A multilevel pattern of marks written to an optical disc as recited in claim 54 wherein said rows further include trellis closeout areas.

5 57. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system, said method comprising the steps of:

defining a preamble comprising the steps of:

providing a timing acquisition area;

inserting a preamble level calibration area; and

10 adding an equalizer training area;

adding a data block; and

appending a postamble.

58. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 57 wherein said step of defining a preamble includes the steps of:

15 inserting a time zero locator area; and

adding a block address.

59. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 57 wherein said step of appending a postamble includes inserting timing subunits, said timing subunits containing an AGC/timing area and a DC control area.

20 60. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 57 wherein said step of adding a data block contains a step of providing ECC protected data having inner parity and outer parity.

61. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 57 including the steps of:

25 providing a link-in area prior to said preamble having an oscillating mid-level pattern area;

and

providing a link-out area.

62. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 60 wherein said step of providing ECC protected data includes the step of puncturing said inner parity.

30 63. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 60 wherein said step of providing ECC protected data includes convolutionally encoding such that m bits are encoded into n bits.

64. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 63 where n is greater than m .

- 5 65. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 63 including the step of organizing said data block into sectors containing a plurality of rows.
66. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 65 where said data is organized into sixteen sectors of thirteen rows.
67. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 65
- 10 including the step of associating a sector closeout/resynch area with a sector.
68. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 65 where said step of organizing provides, in each of said rows, an AGC/Timing area, an ECC row data synch pattern, a DC control area, and an ECC block row.
69. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 67
- 15 wherein said sector closeout/resynch areas include:
- an AGC/Timing area;
 - a DC control area for the previous sector; and
 - a timing reacquisition.
70. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 68
- 20 wherein said rows further include trellis closeout areas.
71. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 57 including the steps of:
- detecting an address in pregroove (AIP) signal; and
 - synchronizing an information block write to said address in pregroove (AIP) signal.
- 25 72. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 71 wherein said step of detecting includes:
- reading a plurality of AIP frames where an integer number of said AIP frames correspond to each of said information blocks and are arranged as AIP blocks, each of said AIP frames containing an AIP address where said AIP address relates to said information block address by the equation $\text{INT}(\text{AIP address}/\text{integer number}) = \text{physical information block address}$.
- 30 73. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 72 wherein said integer number is five.

5 74. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 72 wherein said step of synchronizing comprises decoding an AIP frame start address, said AIP frame start address indicating the start of said writing an information block.

75. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 72 wherein said step of synchronizing comprises decoding an AIP frame stop address, said AIP frame
10 stop address indicating the stop of said writing an information block.

76. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system, said method comprising the steps of:

defining a preamble comprising the steps of:

providing a timing acquisition area;

15 inserting a preamble level calibration area; and

adding an equalizer training area;

adding a first data block;

defining a midamble comprising the steps of:

inserting a midamble level calibration area; and

20 adding a midamble equalizer training area;

adding a second data block; and

appending a postamble.

77. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 76 wherein said step of defining a preamble includes the steps of:

25 inserting a time zero locator area; and

adding a block address.

78. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 76 wherein said step of appending a postamble includes inserting timing subunits, said timing subunits containing an AGC/timing area and a DC control area.

30 79. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 76 wherein said steps of adding a first data block and adding a second data block contain a step of providing ECC protected data having inner parity and outer parity.

- 5 80. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 76 including the steps of:
- providing a link-in area prior to said preamble having an oscillating mid-level pattern area;
 - and
 - providing a link-out area.
- 10 81. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 79 wherein said steps of providing ECC protected data include the step of puncturing said inner parity.
82. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 79 wherein said steps of providing ECC protected data include convolutionally encoding such that m bits are encoded into n bits.
- 15 83. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 82 where n is greater than m .
84. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 82 including the step of organizing said first data block and said second data block into sectors containing a plurality of rows.
- 20 85. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 84 where said first data block and said second data block are each organized into eight sectors of thirteen rows.
86. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 84 including the step of associating a sector closeout/resynch area with a sector.
- 25 87. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 84 where said step of organizing provides, in each of said rows, an AGC/Timing area, an ECC row data synch pattern, a DC control area, and an ECC block row.

- 5 88. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 86 wherein said sector closeout/resynch areas include:
- an AGC/Timing area;
 - a DC control area for the previous sector; and
 - a timing reacquisition.
- 10 89. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 87 wherein said rows further include trellis closeout areas.

5 90. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 76 including the steps of:

detecting an address in pregroove (AIP) signal; and

synchronizing an information block write to said address in pregroove (AIP) signal.

10 91. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 90 wherein said step of detecting includes:

reading a plurality of AIP frames where an integer number of said AIP frames correspond to each of said information blocks and are arranged as AIP blocks, each of said AIP frames containing an AIP address where said AIP address relates to said information block address by the equation $\text{INT}(\text{AIP address}/\text{integer number}) = \text{physical information block address}$.

15 92. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 91 wherein said integer number is five.

93. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 91 wherein said step of synchronizing comprises decoding an AIP frame start address, said AIP frame start address indicating the start of said writing an information block.

20 94. A method of writing an information block in a multilevel optical data system as recited in claim 91 wherein said step of synchronizing comprises decoding an AIP frame stop address, said AIP frame stop address indicating the stop of said writing an information block.

25 95. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system adapted to storing or retrieving data arranged in physical information blocks having physical information block addresses, said AIP having a lead-in area, data area and lead-out area, said AIP comprising:

30 a plurality of AIP frames where an integer number of said AIP frames correspond to each of said physical information blocks and are arranged as AIP blocks, each of said AIP frames containing an AIP address where said AIP address relates to said physical information block address by the equation $\text{INT}(\text{AIP address}/\text{integer number}) = \text{physical information block address}$; and

a special information area contained in said AIP frames in said lead-in area.

96. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 95 where said integer number is five.

- 5 97. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 95 where said special information area contains information related to the media of said optical disc system.
98. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 95 where said AIP address is incremented monotonically.
99. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 95 where said
10 format is FM biphase-mark modulated on a carrier frequency.
100. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 99 where said carrier frequency is 88.2 KHz.
101. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 95 where said AIP frames contain error protection.
- 15 102. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 101 where said error protection is a 14-bit CRC.
103. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 95 wherein said special information area is organized as blocks of AIP frames.
104. An address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 103 where
20 there are three types of blocks.
105. A method for encoding an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system adapted to storing or retrieving data arranged in physical information blocks having physical information block addresses, said format having a lead-in area, data area and lead-out area, said method for encoding comprising the steps of:
- 25 providing a plurality of AIP frames where an integer number of said AIP frames correspond to each of said physical information blocks and are arranged as AIP blocks, each of said AIP frames containing an AIP address where said AIP address relates to said physical information block address by the equation $\text{INT}(\text{AIP address}/\text{integer number}) = \text{physical information block address}$; and
- 30 including a special information area in said AIP frames in said lead-in area.
106. A method for encoding an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 105 including choosing five as said integer number.

- 5 107. A method for encoding an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 105 including inserting information related to the media of said optical disc system in said special information area.
108. A method for encoding an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 105 including incrementing said AIP address monotonically.
- 10 109. A method for encoding an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 105 including FM biphase-mark modulating said address in pregroove (AIP) on a carrier frequency.
110. A method for encoding an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 109 further including choosing said carrier frequency as 88.2 KHz.
- 15 111. A method for an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 105 including processing said AIP frames with error protection.
112. A method for encoding an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 111 further including using a 14-bit CRC for said error protection.
113. A method for encoding an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 105 including organizing said special information area as blocks of AIP frames.
- 20 114. A method for encoding an address in pregroove (AIP) in a multilevel optical disc system as recited in claim 113 further including defining three types of said blocks.
115. An optical storage disc produced by using the method of claim 57, said optical storage disc containing a plurality of information blocks.
- 25 116. An optical storage disc produced by using the method of claim 76, said optical storage disc containing a plurality of information blocks.
117. An optical storage disc produced by using the method of claim 105, said optical storage disc adapted for storage a plurality of information blocks.

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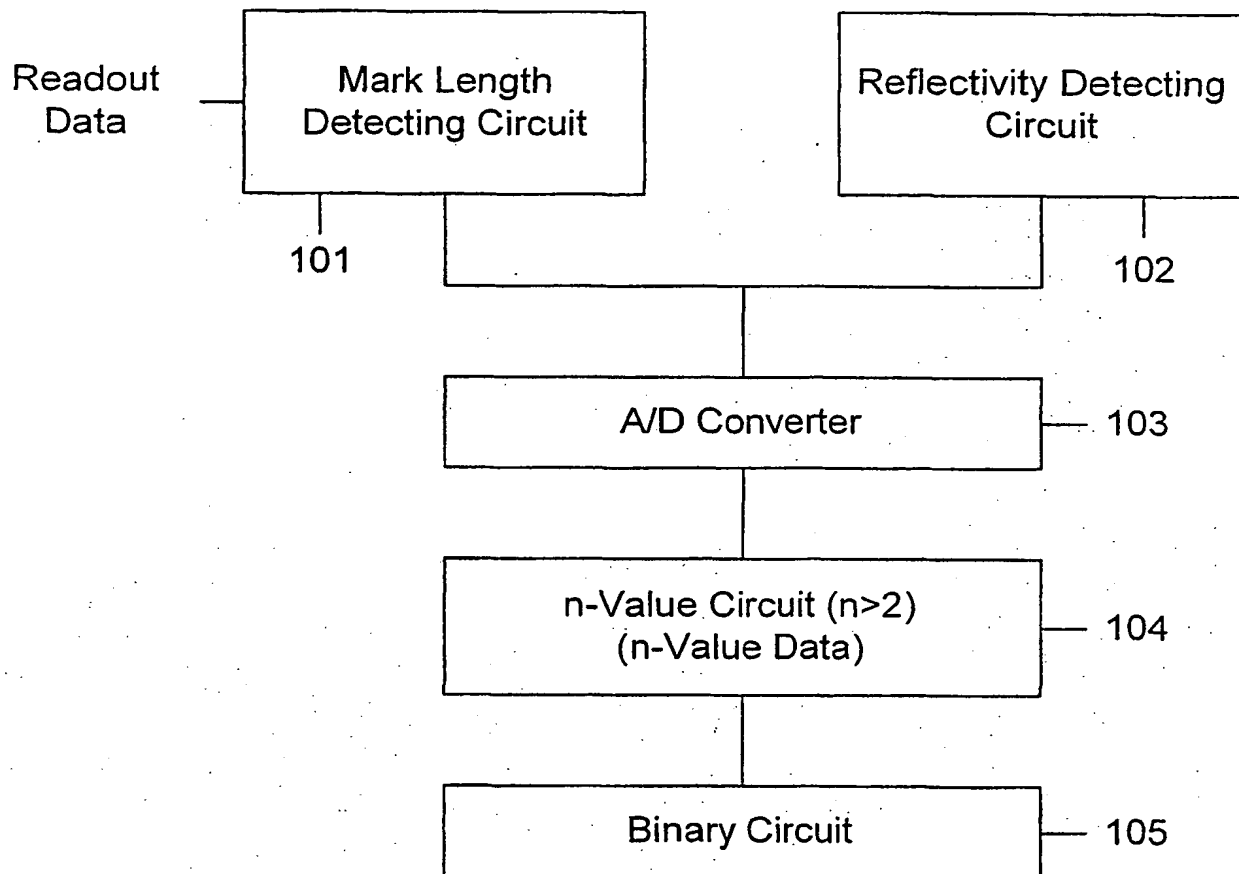


Figure 1
Prior Art

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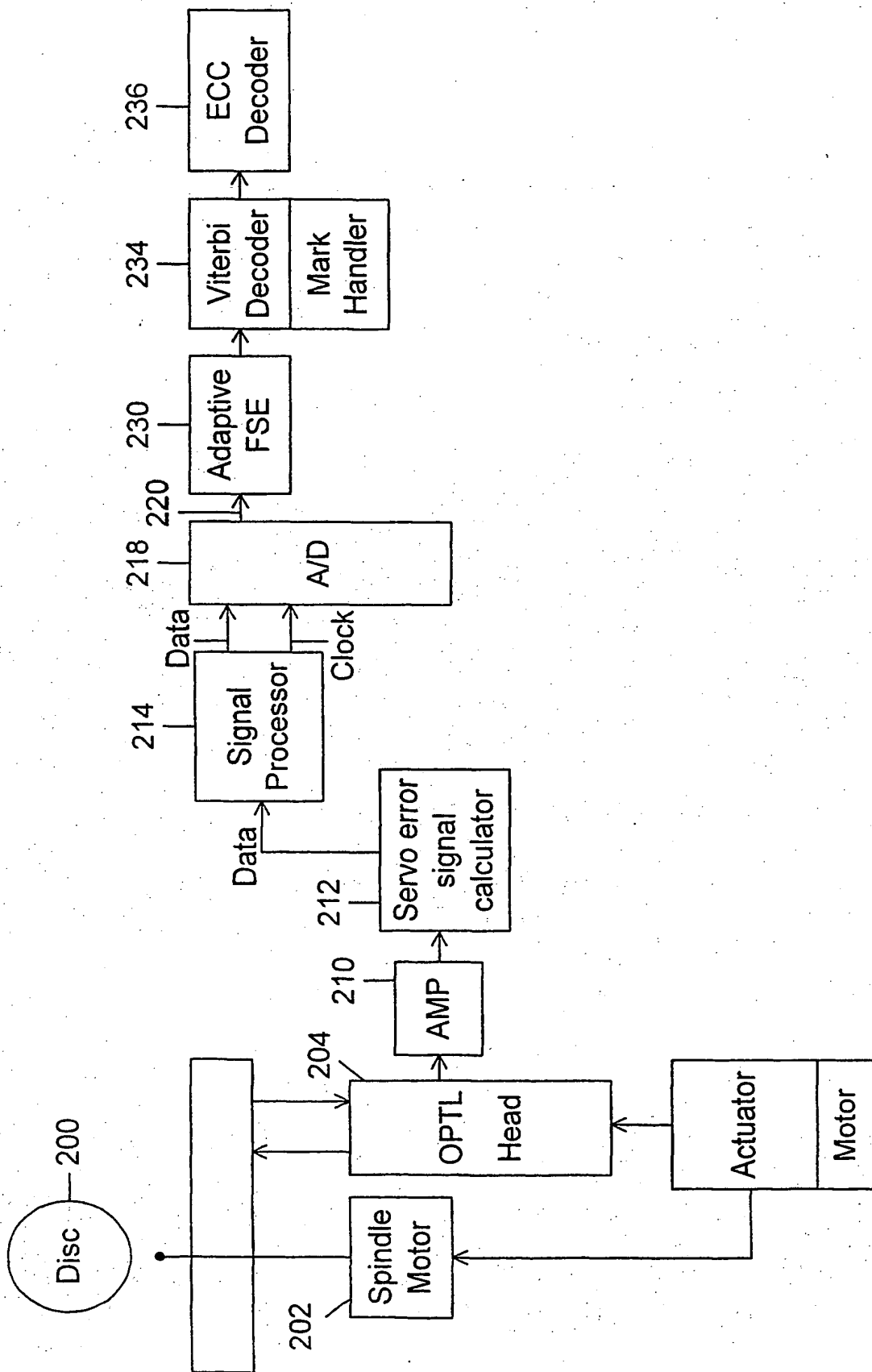


Figure 2

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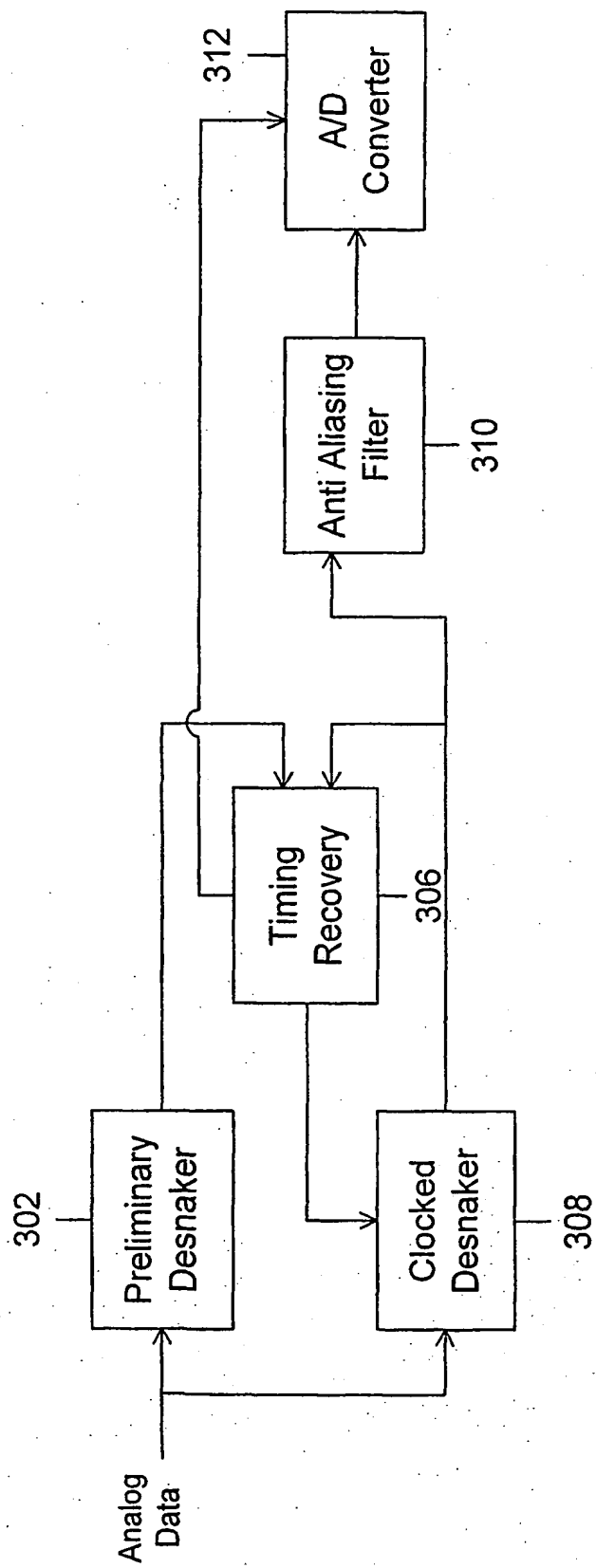


Figure 3A

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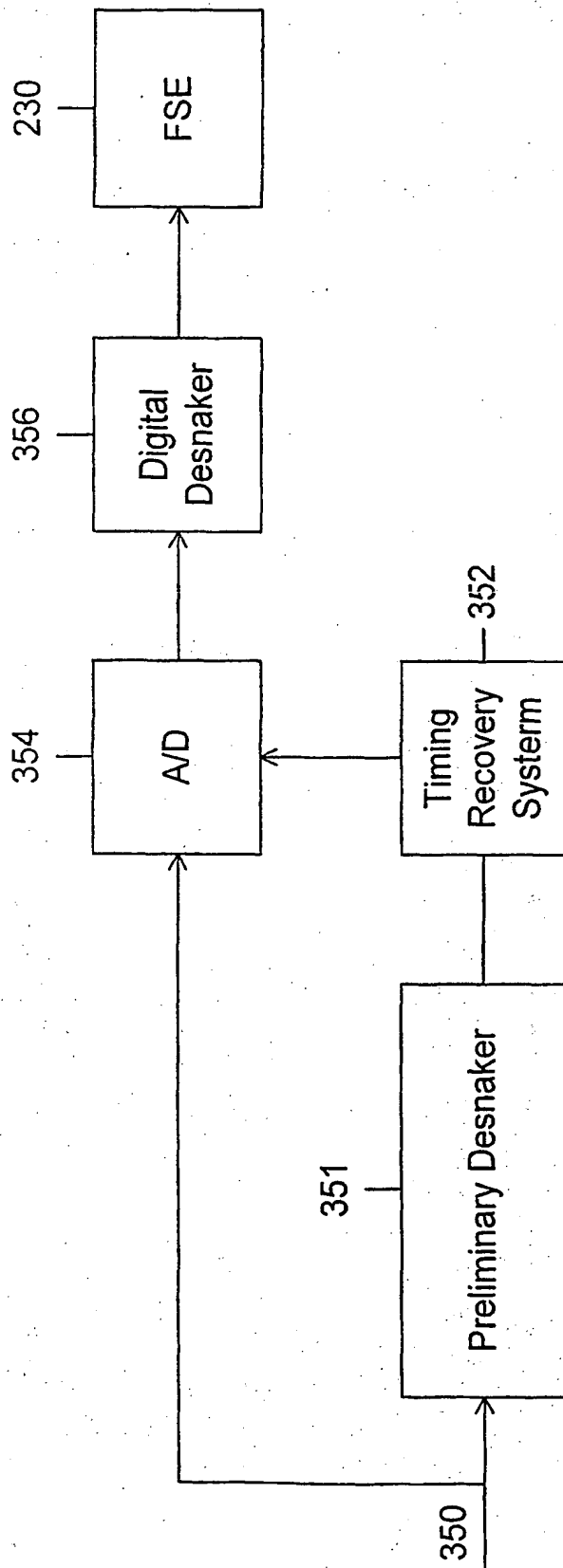


Figure 3B

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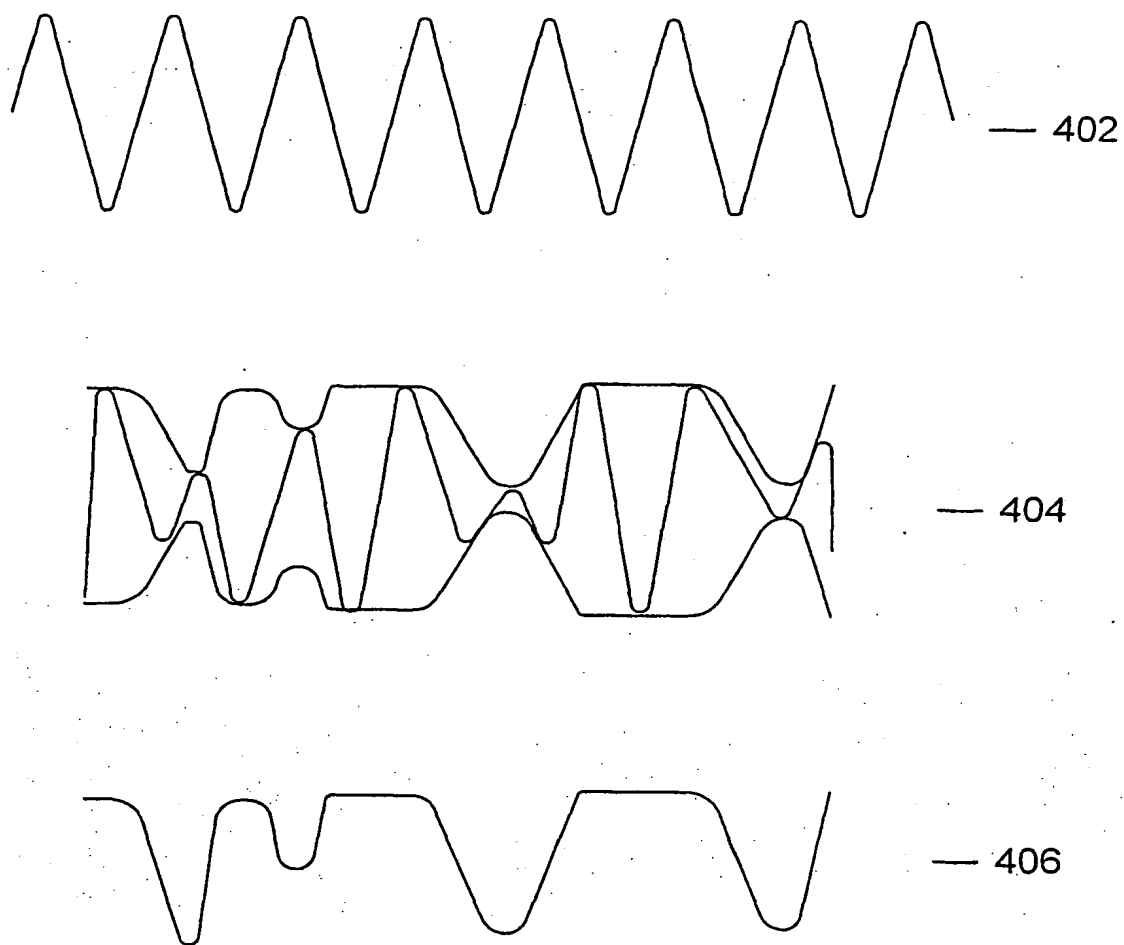


Figure 4

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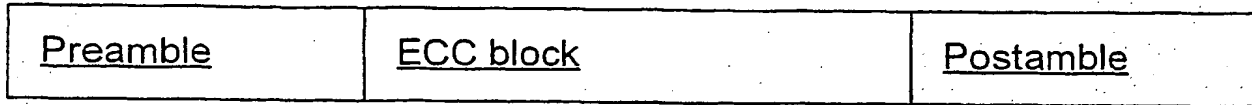
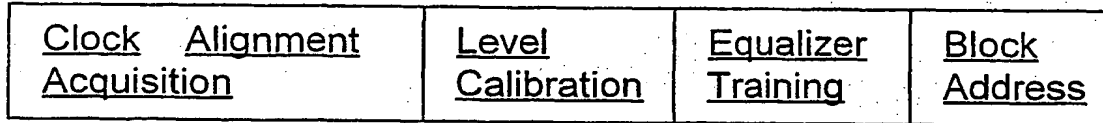
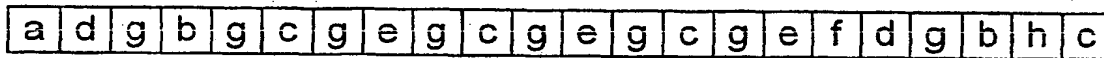


Figure 5A



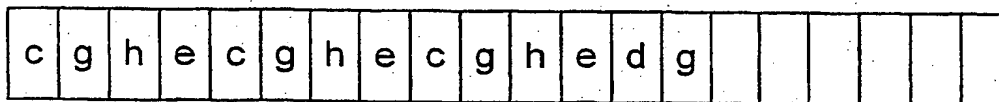
Preamble format
Figure 5B



- a address
- b ECC data synch
- c timing fields
- d AGC
- e DC
- f ECC
- g data
- h trellis clean up

Data block / ECC Format

Figure 5C



- c timing fields
- g filler data
- h trellis clean up
- e DC control
- d AGC fields

Postamble format
Figure 5D

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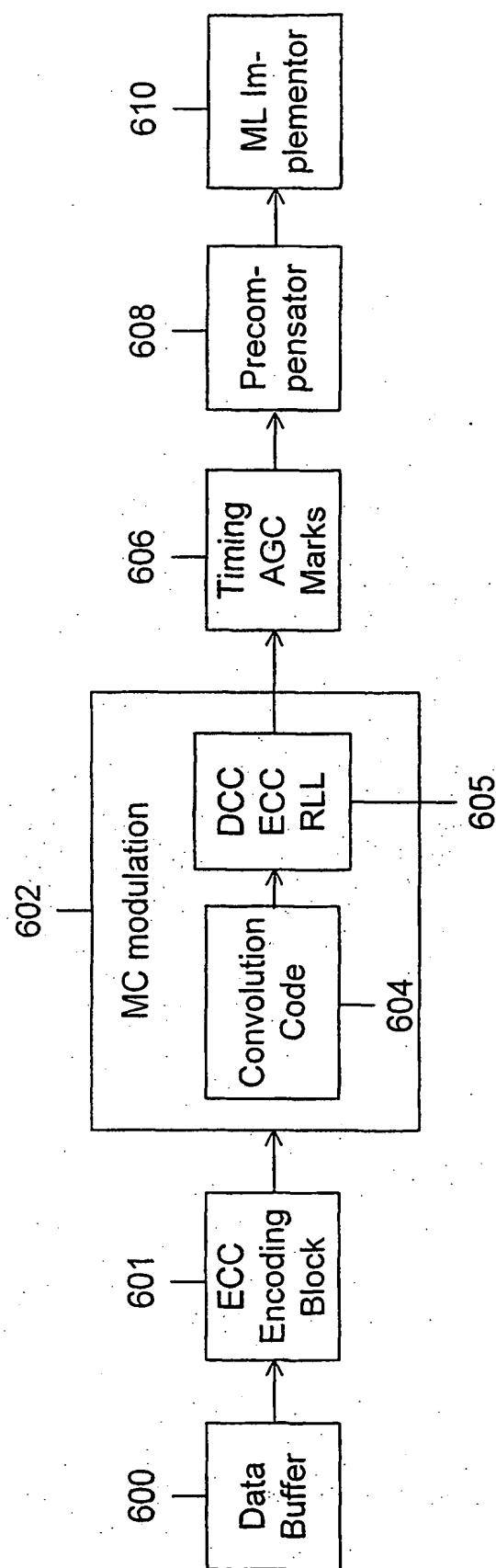


Figure 6

Radius (mm)	22.50	23.56	23.56	58.79	58.79	59.00
Lead-In	-1024	-1	0	61,035	61036	61,558
Address				Address	Address	Address

Figure 7

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Marks	16	48	32
Purpose (bit labels)	Reserved (bits $b_{31}..b_{24}$)	Physical Block Number (bits $b_{23}..b_0$)	IED (bits $c_{15}..c_0$)

Figure 9

Marks	10	1	76	10	20	37	20	10	76	1
Purpose	A/T_N	OM 1	Address Information 1	A/T_P	Address Information 2	OM 2	Address Information A	A/T_N	Address Information B	OM 3

Figure 10

SCRO-14: Sector Closeouts and Resynchs			
Marks	10	18	320
Purpose	A/T_p	Sector Closeout	Timing Resynch

Figure 11

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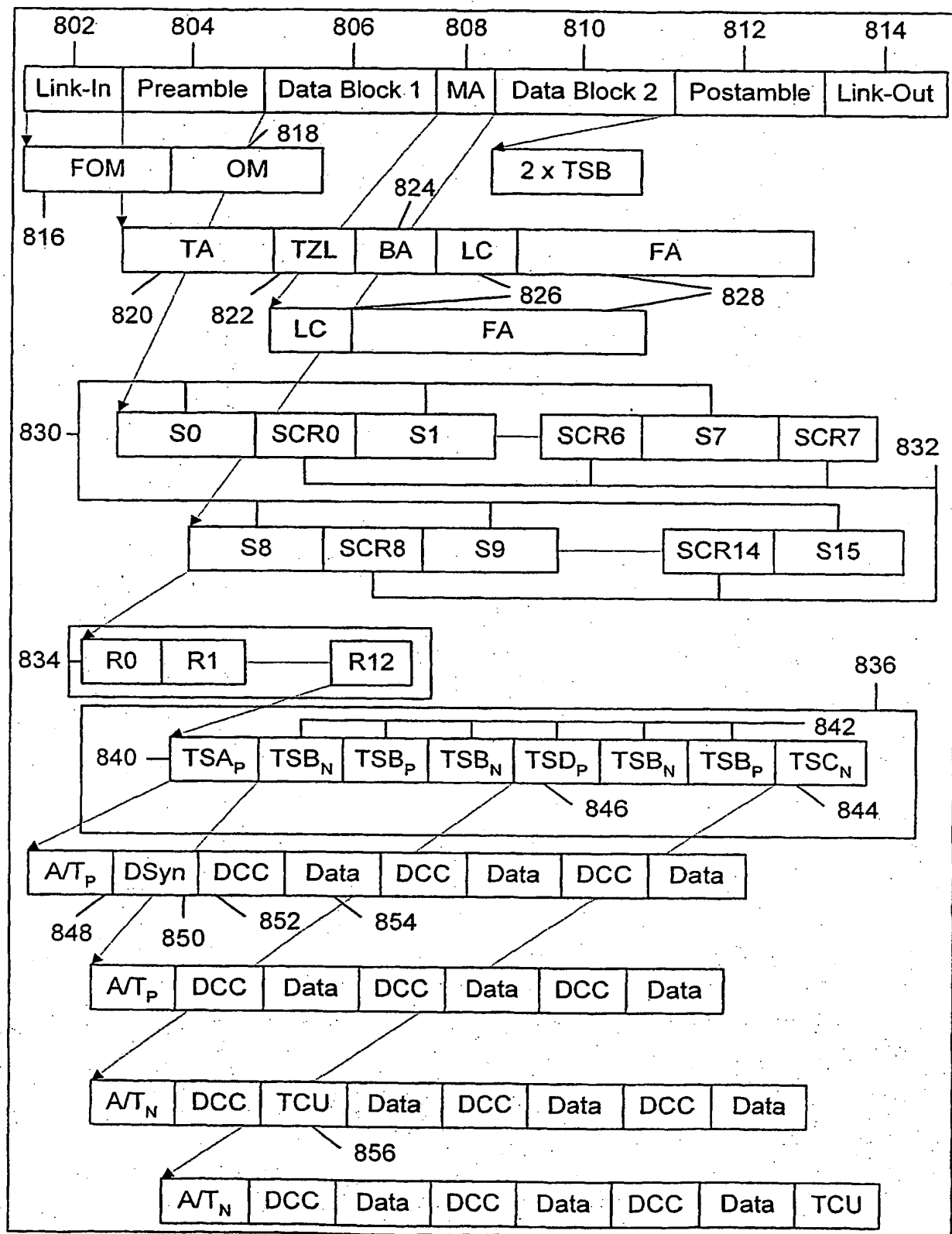
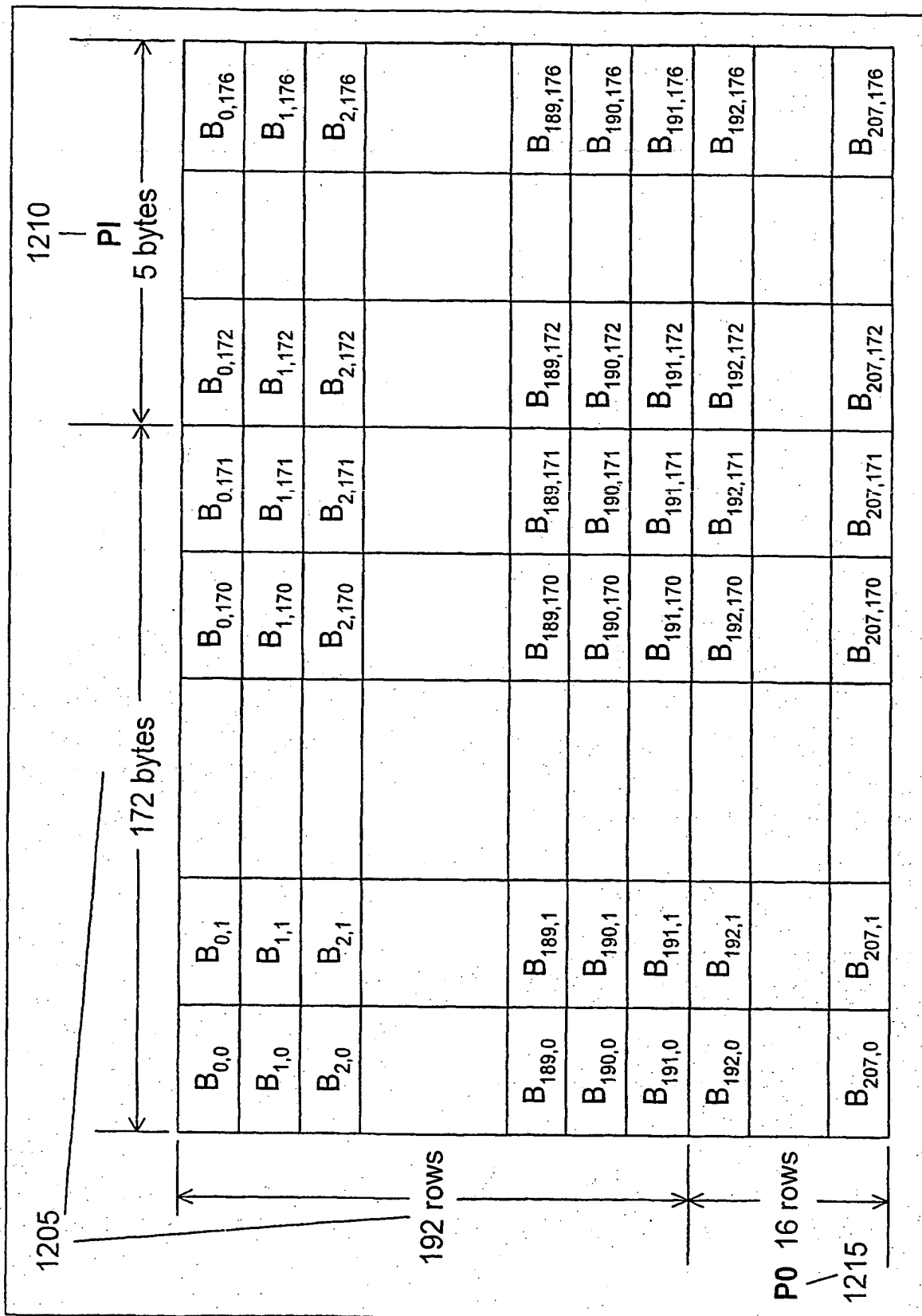


Figure 8

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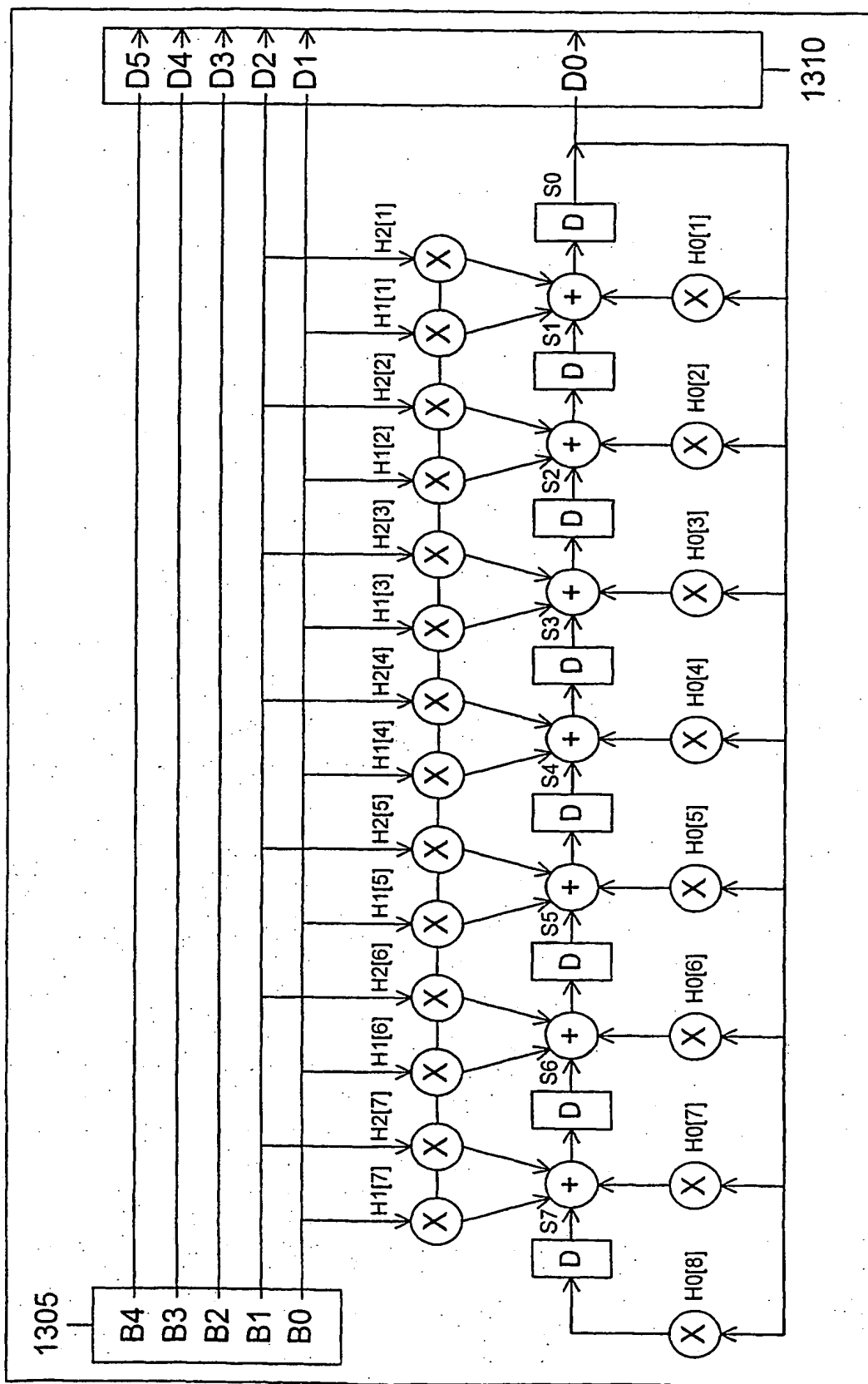


Figure 13

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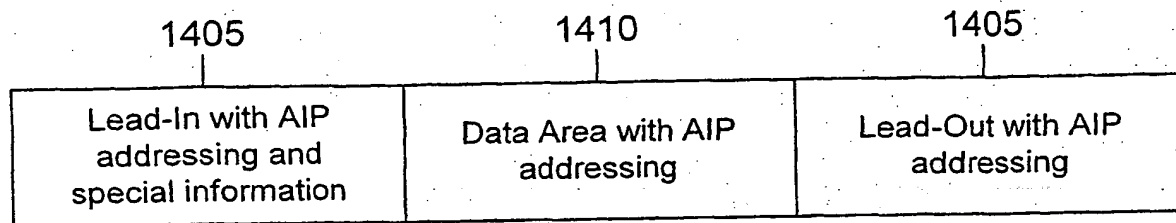


Figure 14

Number of bits	7 (bits 1-7)	4 (bits 8-11)	8 (bits 12-19)	8 (bits 20-27)	8 (bits 28-35)	14 (bits 36-49)
Data	Synch	Special Info Area	AddressC	AddressB	AddressA	CRC remainder

Figure 15

1505

AIP Block Type 0	Physical Block (5 AIP Frames)				
AIP Frame	1	2	3	4	5
Information in Reserve bits (bits 8-11 of AIP frame)	1111	B1, B2, AA1, AA2	D1, D2, D3, D4	U1, U2, U3, U4	N1, N2, AB1, AB2

1605

Figure 16

AIP Block Type 1	Physical Block (5 AIP Frames)				
AIP Frame	1	2	3	4	5
Information in Reserve bits (bits 8-11 of AIP frame)	B1, B2, S1, S2	PM1, PM2, PM3, PM4	PG1, PG2, PG3, PG4	AC1, AC2, AC3, AC4	AC5, AC6, AC7, AC8

Figure 17

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AIP Block Type 2	Physical Block (5 AIP Frames)				
AIP Frame	1	2	3	4	5
Information in Reserve bits (bits 8-11 of AIP Frame)	B1, B2, S1, S2	TM1, TM2, TM3, TM4	TB1, TB2, TB3, TB4	TT1, TT2, TT3, TT4	AD1, AD2, AD3, AD4

Figure 18

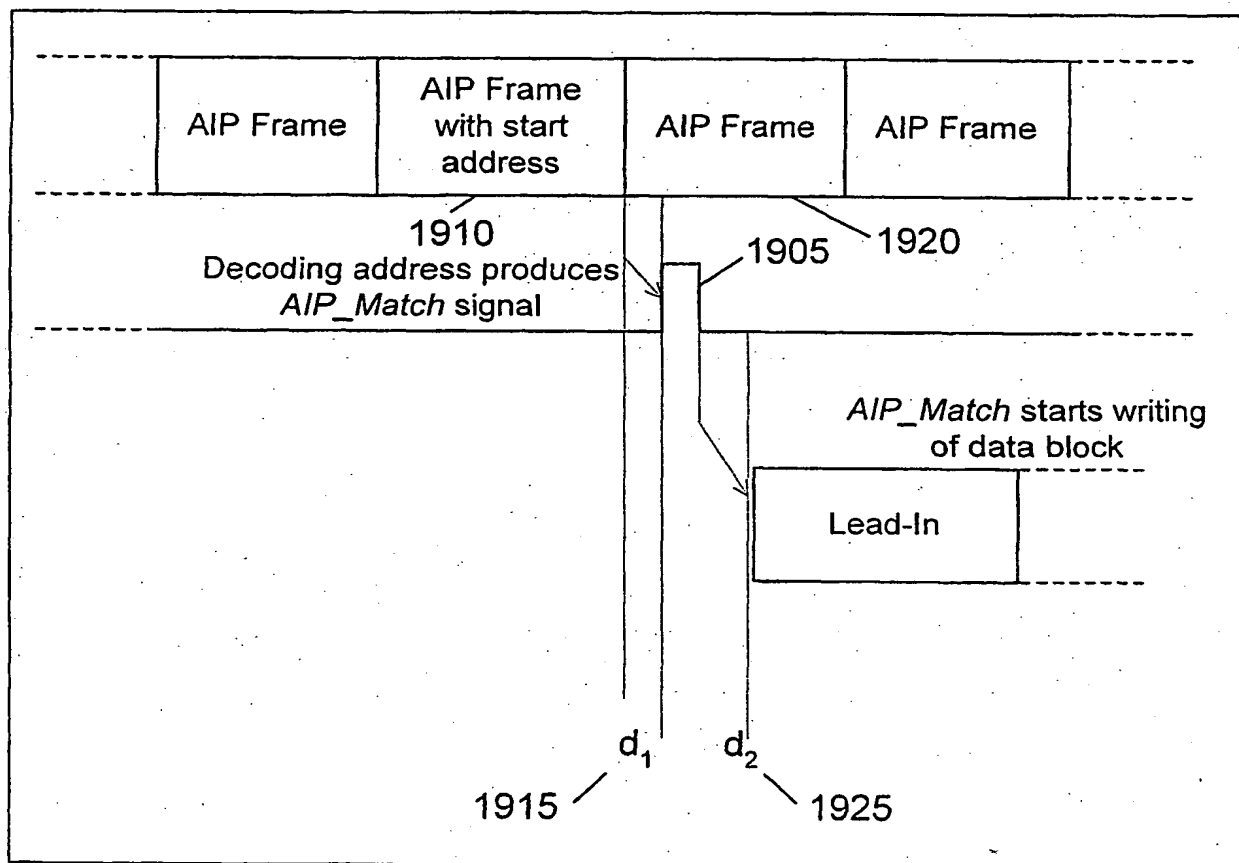


Figure 19

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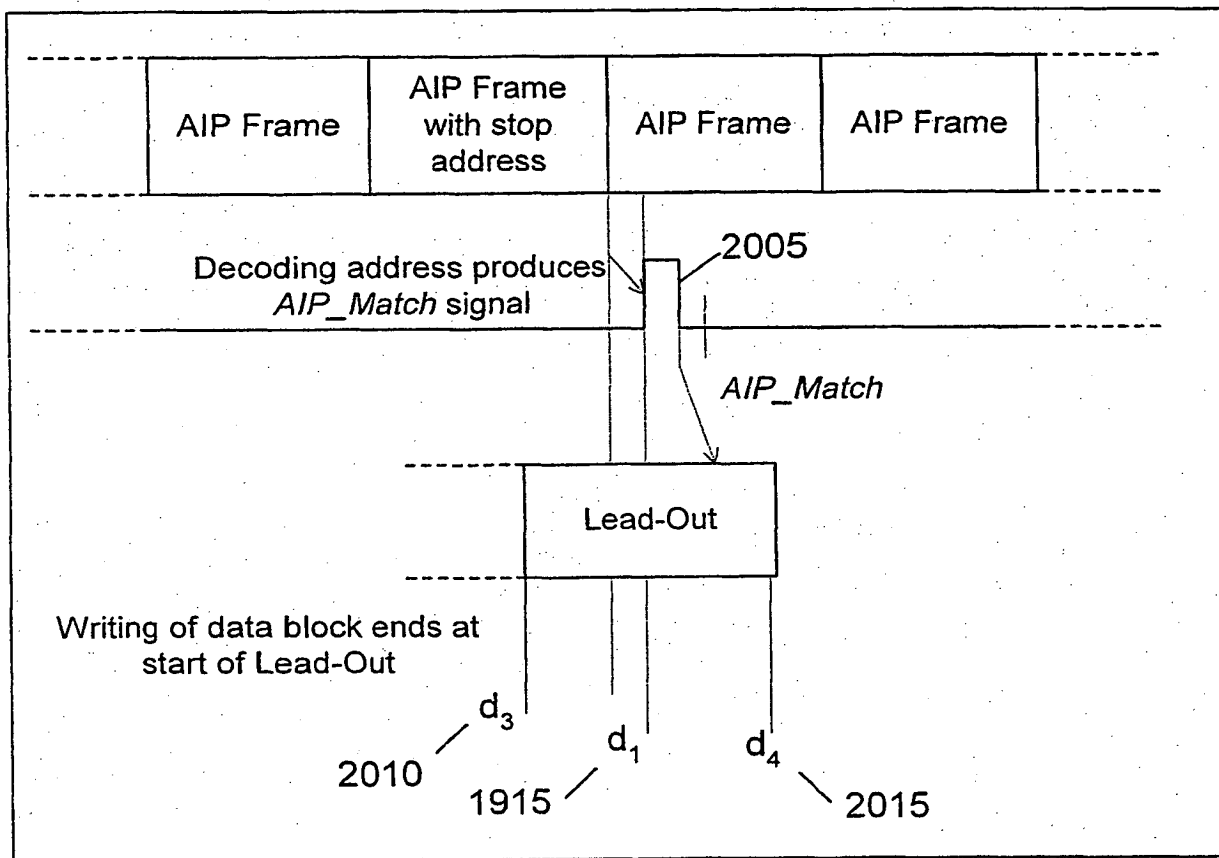


Figure 20

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US00/41273

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G11B 3/70, 5/09, 7/00

US CL : 369/47.15, 124.07, 124.08, 275.3

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 369/32, 47.15, 47.19, 47.25, 47.28, 59.25, 124.04, 124.07, 124.08, 124.1, 124.14, 275.3; 360/48

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WEST

search terms: multilevel\$ or (multi ADJ1 level\$), ECC, AGC, DC, preamble\$

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,719,843 A [NAKAJIMA et al] 17 February 1998, entire document.	1-117
A	US 5,537,382 A [MCLAUGHLIN et al] 16 July 1996, entire document.	1-117
A	US 5,500,848 A [BEST et al] 19 March 1996, entire document.	1-117

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*Z* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 APRIL 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

27 APR 2001

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